FRIDAY
February 7, 2025

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SYSTEM MALFUNCTION

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## NEARBY

### Demand for Cauvery water connections rises

BENGALURU
Though the initial response to the Cauvery V Stage was lukewarm, with summer approaching, the demand for Cauvery water connections has surged. » Page 2

### Central leaders do not support rebel group: BYV

BENGALURU
Asserting that none of the BJP central leaders is supporting the cause of party rebels who met them in Delhi, party State president B.Y. Vijayendra has said that the leaders will make known their stand about the turmoil in 10 days. » Page 6

### Setty sentenced to three years imprisonment

BENGALURU
A special court on Thursday convicted former Minister S.N. Krishnaiah Setty and three others and sentenced them to three years' imprisonment in a bank fraud case of 2008.

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METROPLUS » PAGE 11

# Centre plays down U.S. handling of deportees

Both Houses erupt in protest over handcuffing and chaining of Indians; Jaishankar says use of such restraints is a standard practice; U.S. has sent back over 15,000 Indians since 2009, says govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid protests from the Opposition members over the way undocumented Indian nationals were handcuffed and chained by the U.S. while deporting them to India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday informed Parliament that the deportation of undocumented migrants was not a new development, and the use of restraints was a "standard operating procedure".

Mr. Jaishankar said the Centre would be engaging with the U.S. government to ensure that the deportees were not mistreated in any manner while being sent back. The Minister made the statement as both the Houses witnessed an uproar over the treatment meted out to 104 illegal Indian immigrants who landed in Amritsar on Wednesday on a U.S. military plane.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha first, Mr. Jaishankar said a total of 15,756 illegal Indian immigrants had been deported to India from the U.S. since 2009.

The Lok Sabha witnessed multiple disruptions and was eventually adjourned after Mr. Jaishankar made the statement amid protests.

**In shackles:** Chained undocumented Indian nationals being deported to India on a U.S. military aircraft. X /@USBPCHIEF

He stressed that it was the obligation of all countries to take back their nationals if they were found to be living illegally abroad. "Sir, honourable members would be aware that the process of deportation is not a new one, I repeat not a new one, and has been ongoing for several years," Mr. Jaishankar said, while sharing a year-wise breakup of deportees since 2009.

The highest deportation was witnessed in 2019 with 2,042 illegal Indian immigrants being sent back to the country, he said.

Mr. Jaishankar also asserted that it was in the collective interest of the House to discourage illegal movement, and the focus of the government would be to "crack down on the illegal migration industry".

Expressing outrage over the handcuffing of deportees, Opposition members staged a protest outside Parliament.

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## U.S. doubles down on deportations

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Amidst outrage over the treatment of Indian deportees, the United States doubled down on its decision to fly the alleged illegal immigrants shackled and handcuffed aboard a military plane.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 15

# What was 'gross' about the 12 Bills kept pending for 3 years: SC to T.N. Governor

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked what Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi found so "gross" about the 12 Bills the State government sent him for assent that they were kept pending for over three years.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan recapped the trajectory of 12 Bills, mostly to do with higher education and the appointment process of Vice-Chancellors in State universities, for the benefit of the Governor, whose office was represented by Attorney-General of India R. Venkataramani.

Justice Pardiwala observed that these Bills were sent by the State Legislature for consent to the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution between January 2020 and April 2023. The Governor had sat on them indefinitely. Ultimately, when the State government approached the court against the Governor's perceived inaction in November 2023, the latter had quickly referred two of the Bills to the President and proceeded to withhold consent on the remaining 10.

> You [Governor] are saying 'I withhold consent', but at the same time, I will not ask them to reconsider the Bills. This would only frustrate the procedure under Article 200... The Governor seems to have adopted his own procedure here
>
> **JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA**
> Supreme Court Judge

## SC to hear Kerala's plea on Governors in March

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The State of Kerala on Thursday pushed for an early hearing in the Supreme Court its writ petition arguing that Governors in Opposition-ruled States have triggered a tendency to delay assent or indefinitely sit on crucial Bills passed by the Legislative Assemblies. The matter is likely to be listed in March.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 9

The judge further observed that the Tamil Nadu Assembly had re-passed the 10 Bills in a Special Session and sent them again to the Governor for assent. This time, the Governor had proceeded to refer all 10 Bills to the President for consideration. The President had subsequently assented to one Bill, rejected seven and not considered the remaining two proposed laws.

"We do not want to undermine the powers of the Governor... But, tell us, what is that something gross the Governor found that he kept these pending for over three years?" Justice Pardiwala asked.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

# Congress practises politics of appeasement: Modi in RS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Comparing the Congress rule with his government's record, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that the Congress practised the politics of *tushtikaran* (appeasement) while his government implemented the policy of *"santushtikaran"* (satisfaction of all).

He was replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address. In his 90-minute speech, he said the Congress had only "hatred and anger" towards B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution. This was reflected in its failure to give due recognition like the Bharat Ratna to him. Without naming the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, he said those carrying copies of the Constitution had scant respect for it. The first amendment to the Constitution, Mr. Modi said, was brought out soon after the document was adopted. "It was brought about by a gentleman [Jawaharlal Nehru] who was not the elected Prime Minister of the country. And the amendment was to crush the freedom of speech," Mr. Modi said.

Narendra Modi

Huge uproar was heard from the Opposition benches as Mr. Modi accused the Congress of crushing freedom of speech.

CONTINUED ON
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# Fire in under-construction building kills two workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two labourers were charred to death while another had a narrow escape in an accidental fire that broke out at a multi-storeyed under-construction residential building at Seegehalli on Magadi Road in the city on Thursday. The building was being constructed on a 2,500 sq. ft plot.

The deceased have been identified as Uday Bhanu, 40, and Roshan, 23, from Bihar who were working as carpenter and painter, respectively. The other labourer, who managed to escape to safety soon after the fire broke out, was rescued later.

The fire that broke out in an under-construction building in Bengaluru on Thursday.

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# Yunus planned to kill me, says Hasina in speech

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DIBRUGARH

Bangladesh has become the "land of terrorists and militants", said its former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a speech delivered online from New Delhi on Thursday.

The nearly hour-long speech was streamed on the web pages of the Awami League soon after a "bulldozer rally" by a mob demolished the historic 32, Dhanmondi residence of Bangladesh's founding leader and Ms. Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, earlier in the day.

**In shambles:** A man hammering the debris around the vandalised residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka on Thursday. AP

Ms. Hasina, who is in exile in India after the fall of her government on August 5, said the people of Bangladesh would do justice for the demolition of the house where she grew up.

She said she would have to accomplish "some important assignment" in the coming days. "A game of destruction has started around Bangladesh, which is going through a phase of chaos and upheaval. Bangladesh, which was a role model of development across the world, has become the land of terrorists and militants," she said.

Ms. Hasina criticised the current government, led by Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus, calling it "completely unconstitutional". "He has come to power using money power and by stepping on the dead bodies of many people of our country," she said. "There was meticulous planning by Yunus *sahib* to kill me and my sister," she added.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh protested "strongly" after Ms. Hasina's speech was disseminated online.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

A.M. FARUQUI

# Diya's ultimate goal: win a medal for India at the Olympic Games

After dominating podiums in age-group National championships for more than half-a-decade, the young paddler clinched a double crown, including the coveted singles title by dethroning Sreeja Akula, at the Senior National table tennis championship in Surat

**Amol Karhadkar**

If you walk past Diya Chitale on a busy street of suburban Mumbai, you will possibly not even notice that you are around an Asian Games athlete. It's only when you notice the determined look on her face and the confident gait that you realise that she lives by the adage 'big things come in small packages.'

The 22-year-old's nearly 15-year-old obsession with table tennis leaves little time for anything else though. In the last week of January, the right-handed paddler added another feather to an already stacked cap by clinching a double crown at the Senior National table tennis championship in Surat.

## Wise beyond her age

The crown of the National champion has eluded her for well over a decade, despite topping the podium in five age-group National championships. So when she ticked the milestone in Surat, the relief of getting the monkey off her back trumped everything else.

"Honestly, it's a feeling of relief that all the hard work over the years has paid off. But there's still a long way to go. It's one step at a time," Diya, employed by the Reserve Bank of India, tells *The Hindu*.

"Having won the sub-junior, junior and youth, I wanted it so badly. But when you keep thinking about it so much, it only moves further out of reach. One match, one point at a time and eventually it paid off in the end."

Despite being one of the top paddlers in the country and having silverware from National-ranking tournaments to show for it, Diya had failed to cross the quarterfinal hurdle in all her previous Senior Nationals. This time around, though, Diya and her coach Sachin Shetty had planned the Nationals campaign for well over eight weeks.

## Blueprint

"We began two months ago. We had two designated sparring partners (Jignesh Rahatwal and Kheya Shah) and planned for almost each of the top 16 players that she could face, depending on the draw. We didn't want to leave any stone unturned this time around," said Shetty, whose younger brother Sanil became the men's National singles champion in 2013.

When Sanil won, Sachin couldn't witness it from the gallery or be by his side as he was the coach of Maharashtra at the sub-junior Nationals whose schedule clashed with that of the Senior Nationals. Nothing would come in the way this time. When top seed Sreeja Akula netted a forehand topspin down-the-line off what was Diya's first match-point after a tense hour-long final, Sachin dropped down to the floor with his hands folded as his ward jumped with joy.

Coach Sachin Shetty, assistant coach Sudhir Jadhav, Diya along with sparring partners Kheya Shah (pink) and Jignesh Rahatwal. AMOL KARHADKAR

For the first few years after taking Diya under his wings, Sachin juggled coaching duties with his management role at the academy. But when she continued to surge in rankings and win laurels at various levels, Sachin decided to offload other responsibilities to his assistants and concentrate solely on Diya's career.

With Sachin by her side wherever she went, and expert advice from former India coach Peter Engel and Korean coach Shin Min Sung, Diya has managed to emerge as a force to reckon with in the table tennis community.

## Old-school

While a majority of female paddlers are exploiting the advantage of the pimpled rubbers, Diya is a flag-bearer for the conventional plain rubbers. It means she needs more skills, strength, stamina and agility than most of her peers. And she showcased all these aspects in a come-from-behind win against World No. 21 Sreeja. Trailing 2-0, despite being in the game for most part, not too many in the enclosure thought that Diya would be able to stop Sreeja's march to a hat-trick of National titles.

But just like her penchant for surprising naysayers, Diya staged a stunning comeback, consistently combining her backhand prowess with finishing skills to put Sreeja under pressure.

All the hard yards that Diya and her team had put in over the last two months bore fruit.

Considering the fact that four of the top eight-ranked paddlers in India use long pimples, Kheya was roped in as a long-pimpled sparring specialist while Jignesh's speed came in handy for Diya to get used to the speed of rallies.

With Sachin and assistant coach Sudhir Jadhav keeping a close watch on each of the training sessions at the Khar Gymkhana, and parents Parag and Reshma taking care of every little aspect off the table, Divya was able to focus on the tournament with confidence. She also had support from Olympic Gold Quest.

Soon after clinching the doubles title along with Sreeja, Diya beat Syndrela Das – the next big sensation in women's table tennis who stormed into the semis as a 15-year-old – to set up a singles summit clash against Sreeja later in the afternoon. She knew she had little time to plan and recover for one of the most important matches of her life.

"Diya was quite confident. I told her to relax and take a nap if possible while I focussed on coming up with specific plans to target Diya's forehand corner," Shetty said. "When we discussed it on the way to the venue for the final, she was also thinking on similar lines and executed them to near-perfection. To pull off a tight match against a solid opponent is extremely difficult but Diya did it!"

For the diminutive Diya, though, coming though a tense final was a reason to rejoice, particularly when the opponent was someone as close to her as Sreeja.

"We have played so many matches against each other that we know each other's game very well. It boiled down to pressure in the end. Just a relief that I was able to win this match," Diya said.

With a major milestone crossed, Diya now has the space to focus on larger ambitions.

"The ultimate goal is to win a medal for India at the Olympic Games but just like I have been trying to do, it's just one step at a time and the ultimate goal will always remain the same".

## THE GIST

- The 22-year-old bounced back to deny Sreeja a hat-trick of singles crowns at the Nationals
- Diya and her coach Sachin Shetty had planned the Nationals campaign for well over eight weeks
- As she plays with the conventional plain rubbers, Diya needs more skills, strength, stamina and agility than most of her peers

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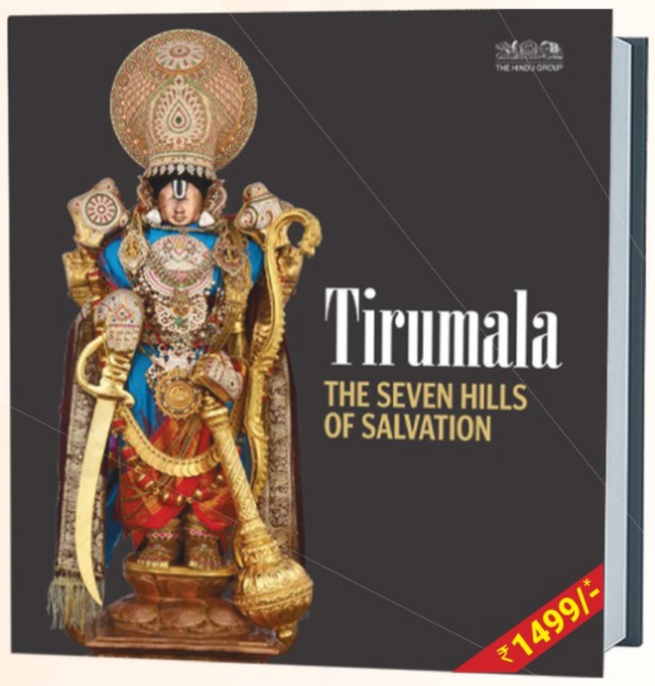


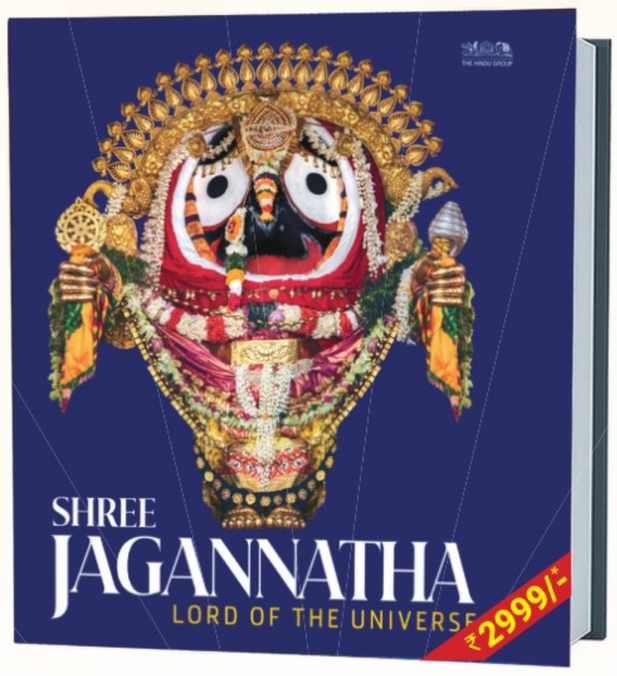


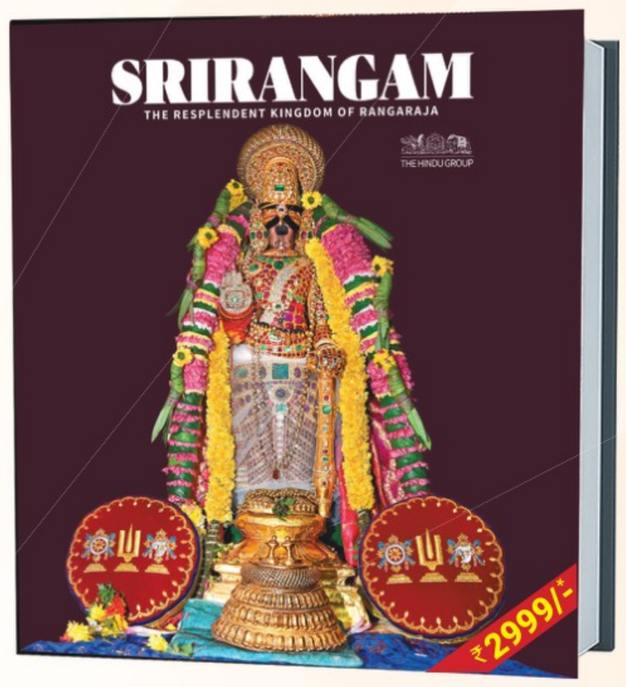


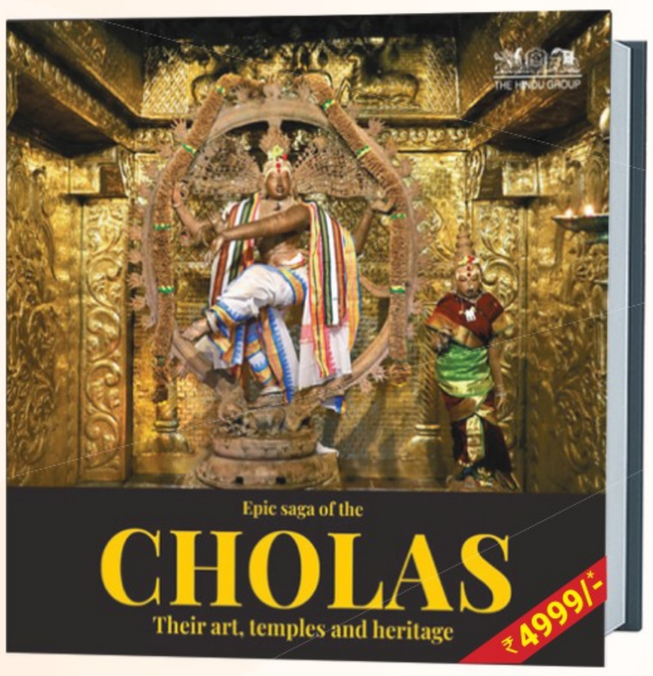


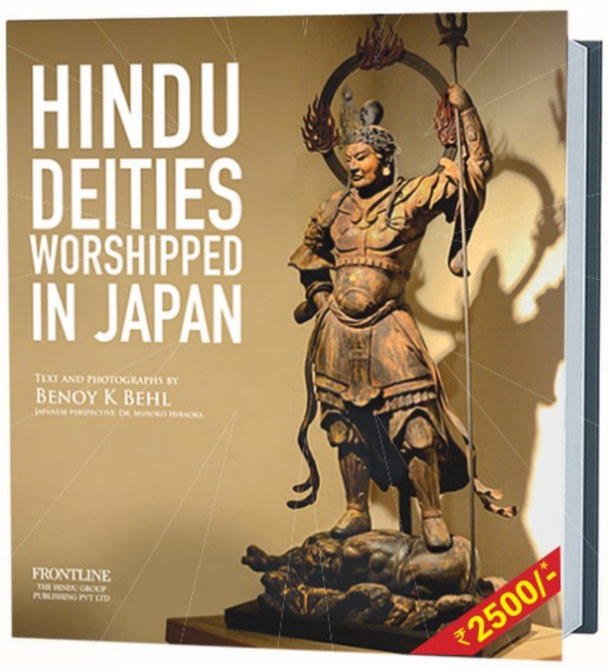


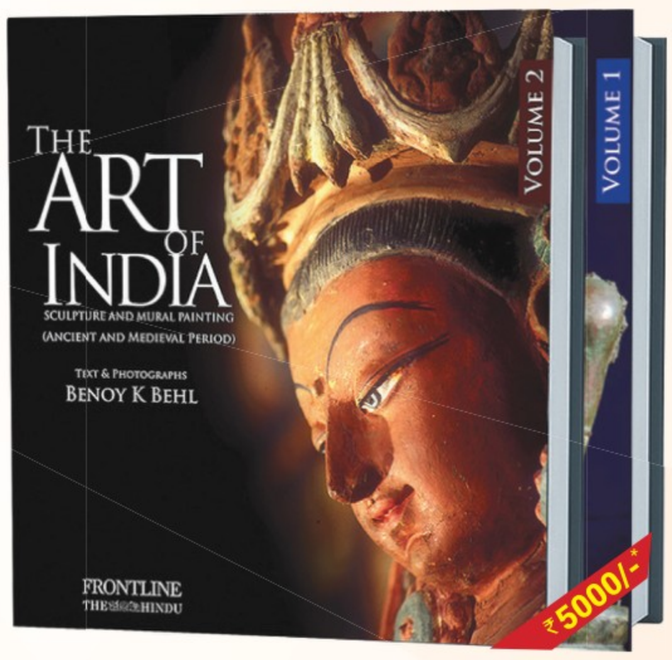


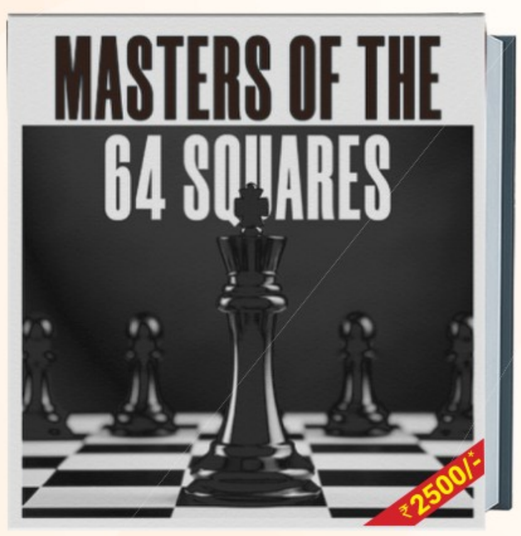

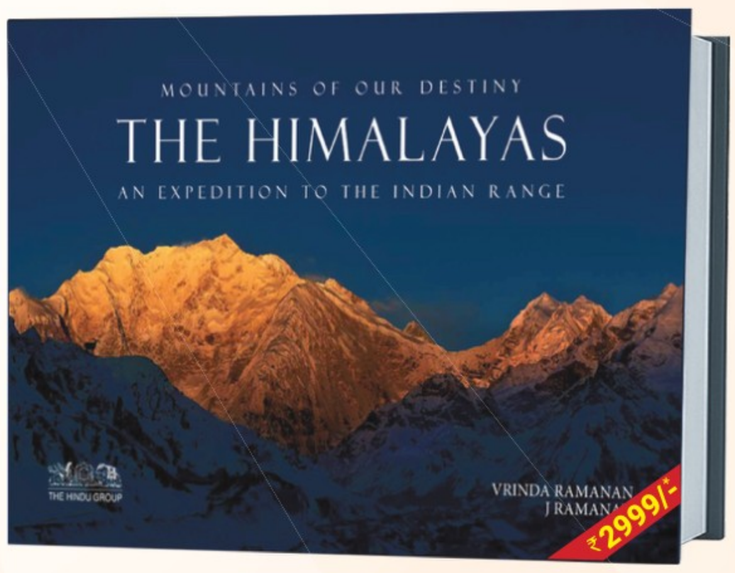


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# As summer nears, demand for Cauvery water connections rises

In 2024, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board received 58,543 applications and provided 38,013 new connections

**K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj**
BENGALURU

We are almost fully dependent on water tankers, and the borewell we have is of little help during the summer. Groundwater levels are projected to decline further this time as well. After the ordeal of 2024, we did not want to take any chances and applied for a Cauvery water connection last month. We will get it by the time summer peaks," said Ashok K.H., president of the residents' association of Sobha Forest Edge apartment complex, off Kanakapura Road.

Though the initial response to the Cauvery V Stage was lukewarm, with summer approaching, demand has surged. "The response to our campaign is very good. The number of applications has increased dramatically," said V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Data shows that in 2024, the board received 58,543 applications and provided 38,013 new connections, earning a revenue of ₹887.82 crore. Work on providing connections to the remaining approximately 20,000 applicants is under way. Most of these applications came after October 16, 2024, when Cauvery V Stage, for which the Board had taken a loan of ₹5,500 crore, was commissioned. Before this, 55,000 residents had received connections.

"The monsoons in 2024 were good, unlike in 2023. Water availability in the Cauvery basin is good, and we will be able to draw the 2,220 MLD assigned to us, including from Cauvery V Stage, if needed. However, demand from Cauvery V Stage is not yet at full capacity. Those who have Cauvery water connections will likely not have any water issues this summer. There won't be supply cuts like last summer. But those dependent on groundwater will feel the pinch," Mr. Manohar said, appealing to residents in 110 villages to avail themselves of connections immediately.

A recent study by the Indian Institute of Science has predicted that groundwater levels will deplete by up to 20-25 metres in 110 villages that have been dependent on groundwater for decades, and Cauvery V Stage is all set to serve these areas by March-April 2025.

Cauvery V Stage

| Zone | Applications for new connections in 2024 | New connections in 2024 | Revenue generated from new connections in ₹crore |
|---|---|---|---|
| East | 12,421 | 8,267 | 303.12 |
| West | 18,512 | 12,130 | 178.89 |
| North | 8,197 | 5,341 | 141.47 |
| South | 19,413 | 12,275 | 264.34 |
| Total | 58,543 | 38,013 | 887.82 |

**Grim scenario**
Projected decline in groundwater levels by March-April 2025 | Central Bengaluru **5 metres** | CMC areas **10-15 metres** | 110 villages **20-25 metres**

A file photo of water supply pipeline being laid. The BWSSB will set up 10 large temporary tanks filled with Cauvery water, called Cauvery Connect Centres. FILE PHOTO

**Legal options**
Following instructions by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, BWSSB is exploring legal options to make availing Cauvery V Stage connections mandatory for apartment complexes. "We feel this can be done legally to avoid overexploitation of the underground water table. We will soon submit a proposal to the state government," Mr. Manohar said. Eight of the 110 villages – four villages around Kadugodi in the east and four villages around Chokkanahalli in the north – are yet to get water supply networks. "We need land to build ground-level reservoirs (GLRs) in these villages, which has run into a legal dispute, and the case is pending in court. Without a GLR, we cannot provide water supply," said Mr. Manohar.

**Connect Centres**
BWSSB will set up 10 large temporary tanks filled with Cauvery river water, called Cauvery Connect Centres, to cater to pockets that are not yet serviced by Cauvery river water. These include the eight villages yet to get water supply networks and certain other pockets within the city. People can buy Cauvery river water from these centers at a cost of ₹90/kilolitre. However, residents have to arrange their own transport.

"One such temporary metal tank of 75,000 litre capacity was set up in Varthur, one of the eight villages yet to get a water supply network, last year and now the project is being expanded to ten other centres," said Jagadish Reddy, a resident of Varthur. However, he added that the centre hadn't served local residents much as they did not find means to transport the water to their homes. "Only some big apartments have benefitted from the Centre," he said.

The Board will also set up smaller plastic tanks in the slum pockets of the city and refill them with Cauvery river water regularly, an initiative that began in the summer of 2024 and became popular.

Ramesh Reddy, a water tanker businessman in Doddanekkundi, said that the demand for water tankers was almost non-existent and they don't foresee prices shooting up like the summer of 2024 this year. The price of a tanker load of 12,000 litres is being sold at ₹1,200.

# DKS: Hebbal flyover will be opened to public in May

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**He says that all further metro stretches will be planned as elevated double-deckers**

Work on the additional loop to the Hebbal flyover must be completed by April 30 and will be opened for the public in May 2025, said Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D. K. Shivakumar.

**Underpass on ORR**
Speaking at a press conference here on Thursday after inspecting the flyover along with heads of multiple civic agencies, Mr. Shivakumar said that the government has approved an underpass on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) from Goranguntepalya towards K. R. Puram below the Hebbal flyover. "Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), and Indian Railways have to work together on the project. The additional loop to Hebbal flyover and the underpass will ease traffic at this junction," he said.

He also inspected other traffic bottlenecks, including Goraguntepalya, Sumanahalli, and Nayandahalli junctions, and said, "We have discussed certain solutions to ease congestion at these junctions, which include tunnel roads, underpasses, and flyovers. I wanted to conduct a spot inspection myself," he said, adding that the agencies have been asked to revamp the lighting in the city.

He further said that all further metro stretches will be planned as elevated double-deckers - a road and a metro line - and the costs will be shared by BMRCL and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) equally. "The city is expanding and needs more infrastructure. But building new roads or expanding existing roads is a herculean task, as the cost of land acquisition is very huge, making it unviable," Mr. Shivakumar said.

He further said advertisements will be allowed on metro pillars under the new ad policy that will be brought in soon and BBMP and BMRCL will share the ad revenue equally, as the pillar is built by BMRCL and the place is owned by BBMP.

When quizzed over proposed revision of metro fares, Mr. Sivakumar said that the state government had no role in fixing metro fares and an autonomous committee will decide on the fare revision.

**Water tariff revision**
Meanwhile, the minister said that Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) had submitted a proposal for a tariff hike and a final decision will be taken after discussing the same in the cabinet. "It has been nearly 14 years since the water tariff was revised in the city. BWSSB is suffering a loss of nearly ₹1000 crore every year and a tariff revision is the need of the hour," he said, refusing to disclose what is the proposed hike.

# Christ NCC unit bags award

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Christ (Deemed to be University) NCC unit has bagged the Best Institution Award in both the Senior Division (male cadets) and Senior Wing (female cadets) in the Karnataka and Goa Directorate for 2024-25. The unit has won this award for seven consecutive years. The performance of the NCC cadets includes three cadets participating in the Republic Day camp at New Delhi. They represented the All India Thal Sainik Camp. Air Commodore B.S. Arun Kumar VSM, Deputy Director General, NCC Karnataka and Goa Directorate, felicitated all the cadets at the Christ (Deemed to be University) on Tuesday.

## From Page One

# Under-construction building fire: Two killed

According to Fire and Emergency Services officials, the fire broke out when eight labourers were working on the second and third floors. While five people escaped, one climbed to the top floor and sat on the water tank. The rescue team used a ladder and rescued him.

The fire control room received a call around 11.10 a.m. and three tenders rushed to the spot. The firefighters started operating from the ground floor upwards of the ground plus four-storeyed building. The charred bodies of two workers, initially suspected to be missing, were found on the second and third floors.

Preliminary investigations by firefighters revealed that a spark due to an electrical short-circuit on one of the floors where the victims were working might have triggered the fire that spread rapidly as there was plaster of Paris and a lot of combustible materials, including varnish products, plywood, and plastic, lying around for the interior work. The eight workers in the building at the time of the incident were painters and carpenters working under two different contractors. The deceased had been stuck in the building and could not come out because of the thick smoke, the police said.

The building owner was identified as Satish.

Based on the complaint filed by the relative of the deceased, the police have registered a case against the owner and the contractors. The building owner has been detained.

# Fake appointment order: Case booked for cheating, forgery

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**The cheating came to light when officials of the Information and Publicity Department alerted the Medical Education Dept.**

The Central Crime Branch officials have registered a case of cheating and forgery against a woman and her associates for allegedly creating a fake Government Order to appoint a clinical psychologist for Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute .

According to CCB officials, the accused woman, identified as Deepa Ramakrishna, and her associates, created a fake GO with forged signature to cheat people.

The cheating came to light when officials of the Information and Publicity Department alerted the Medical Education Department about the appointment seeking verification.

Shivalingaprabhu Wali, under secretary 2, Medical Education Department, who probed the case and later filed a complaint with the CCB, said in his complaint that the Government Order to appoint the doctor is fake and even the signature has been fabricated.

The department verified the GO and concluded that the order dated September 2024 is fake with the forged signature of Mr. Wali. There is no records of any such order in the department.

Based on the findings, a formal complaint was filed with the CCB and the special inquiry unit conducted a probe.

# De-addiction centre sealed, slapped with fine

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The District Health and Family Welfare Department slapped a fine of ₹ 1 lakh and sealed a de-addiction centre situated in Bellandur on Monday on the orders of the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), which conducted a detailed probe on the alleged torture and inhuman practice meted out to a 45-year-old relator who was admitted there. The victim was admitted to the Nava Jeevana Foundation by his family in 2022.

Sources in the SHRC said that the probe revealed that though the victim was fine, he was sent to the centre due to a property dispute among his family and relatives. The victim alleged that he was tortured and assaulted every day on the pretext of treatment. The victim somehow managed to file a complaint with the SHRC. Based on the complaint, a delegation of SHRC officials led by Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sudhir Hedge, raided the centre and filed a detailed report. Based on the report, the SHRC recommended the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru district (Urban) to initiate necessary action. The DC set up a team comprising three doctors, who visited the centre, conducted a detailed probe, and recommended action under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishment Act.

SHRC sources said that the rehab centre had 82 inmates housed in a 2400 square feet area with 20 beds, five bathrooms and three lavatories. The rest of the inmates slept on the floor and were forced to do all types of work like cooking, cleaning and other menial work which is against the rules, sources added .

As per the licensing condition, every rehab centre should accommodate a maximum of 40 inmates. It must have one bathroom for every inmate and separate beds with doctors and psychiatrists visiting everyday.

"Though they have obtained license, theyblatantly violate licensing conditions due to lack of monitoring," the source added.

# *India needs 39 lakh EV charging stations by 2030 to meet demand, says report*

Sector witnessed a rise in innovative business models, including pay-per-use public charging

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

India's EV charging market is at an inflection point, with more than $450 million (₹30,000 crores approximately) already invested in start-ups operating charging networks and battery-swapping models. Yet, with only one public charger per 135 EVs – far below the global average of one per 6-20 EVs – urgent expansion is needed to meet India's goal of 3.9 million charging stations by 2030, says a new report by GameChanger Law Advisors and venture capital firm Speciale Invest.

"The Indian government has also set a goal for EVs to constitute 30% of new private vehicle registrations, totalling to 80 million EVs by the year 2030. To accommodate this substantial increase in EV adoption, India will require a total of 3.9 million public and semi-public charging stations, maintaining a ratio of 1 station for every 20 vehicles," notes the report titled *Charging Ahead II*.

A file photo of an EV charging centre at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru.

According to the report, the EV charging infrastructure sector has grown to gain investor confidence over the years. Over the past five years (2020-24), around 50 Indian start-ups have raised close to USD $511 million of capital cumulatively, it points out citing data from Traxcn.

**Innovative business**
It notes that the sector has witnessed a rise in innovative business models, including pay-per-use public charging and subscription-based services for fleets. Battery-swapping networks gained traction for two- and three-wheelers, further expanding the ecosystem.

Between March 21, 2023, and February 2024, the number of operational public EV charging stations throughout the country has almost doubled from 6,586 to 12,146, as per the data from the Ministry of Power. Maharashtra tops the list with approximately 3,079 stations located across the State. Karnataka has around 1,041 charging stations. According to the report, government initiatives such as the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME II) scheme and Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) played a key role in attracting investment. Additionally, various State governments such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka have introduced EV policies offering subsidies and land support for charging stations, particularly in urban areas, it pointed out.

# Contractors booked in solid waste management tender scam

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has initiated investigations against a few contractors for their alleged involvement in a suspected scam in the solid waste management e-tender process in 2023.

Based on the complaint filed by Basavaraj R Kabade, chief engineer, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the CCB has registered an FIR on Friday charging the unknown persons under Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Sections 420, 426, and 120 B. According to the complainant, the BBMP had called for a tender under e-procurement for the solid waste management and transportation for 225 wards under 89 packages under the primary and secondary stages in January 2023.

**Irregularities in process**
Two agencies among the many bidders raised a complaint that a group of 15 contractors had ganged up to sabotage the tender process and quoted 50-60% more than the estimated cost.

Based on the complaint, the BBMP in October 2024 asked the jurisdictional Halasuru gate police to probe the case. The probe revealed irregularities in the tender process and the case was handed over to the CCB for a detailed probe.

An initial probe by the CCB also revealed violations in the tender process. Due to this, the tender process was cancelled.

# What ails India's massive diagnostics sector: putting labs under the lens

Industry experts estimate that there are around 300,000 labs across the country, and this number is growing. Within the healthcare sector, diagnostics accounts for around 9% of the industry, estimated to be worth ₹860 billion in the financial year 2024, and projected to grow to about ₹1,275 billion by the financial year 2028

The Hindu Bureau

Shankar Dhange, 27, has been fighting a lone battle against the private diagnostics sector in Maharashtra for years now, but he is yet to make any headway. Six years ago, his sister, Sarika Bhonglat, lost her life following complications after a surgery. Shankar believes that the tests his sister underwent prior to the surgery were incorrect, and this led to the wrong treatment being given, causing her death. "The treatment that my sister was given was based on a lab report that was signed off by a technician and not a pathologist. It was this that led to incorrect treatment and complications and finally her death. How can a Class 12 graduate be allowed to sign off on medical imaging and diagnostic tests?" he asks.

Shankar's case is not unique and delves into the heart of what ails the diagnostics sector in India today – a shortage of trained personnel to meet the rapid burgeoning of medical laboratories/diagnostic facilities in the country.

While there are no exact figures available, industry experts estimate that there are around 300,000 labs across the country, and this number is growing. Within the healthcare sector, diagnostics accounts for around 9% of the industry, estimated to be worth ₹860 billion in the financial year 2024, and projected to grow to about ₹1,275 billion by the financial year 2028.

This staggeringly huge sector, however, remains under-regulated, fragmented, and biased towards urban areas.

ILLUSTRATION: SAAI

## The regulations

The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act 2010 aims to bring all diagnostic centres and labs under its ambit, with their registration with respective State councils as clinical establishments. The Act also aims to provide guidance on the minimum standards of facilities and services that should be provided by diagnostic centres and labs.

To date, the Act has been adopted by 12 States – Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Haryana – and all Union Territories, except Delhi. Some other States, including Kerala and Karnataka, have their own legislation to bring labs under the ambit of clinical establishments. However, implementation has, in many cases, not begun, or where it has, it often remains poor.

## The fragmented nature of the sector

Given the low entry barriers and the lack of a strong regulatory environment, there are many standalone players in the sector, making it competitive, fragmented, and prone to varying standards.

Diagnostic centres in India can obtain accreditation voluntarily from organisations such as the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

N. Venkateswaran, CEO, NABL, in an email interview with *The Hindu* highlighted the challenges created by the fast-paced growth of the private sector. India, he noted, has a highly fragmented market with many small, unorganised labs, largely not accredited and following uneven quality standards. "This is in terms of resources to bring in advanced diagnostic technologies, a large variation in pricing even for routine tests, and inadequately skilled manpower," he said.

He said that while the emphasis is on the quality and accuracy of results, lab regulation needs attention. "There has to be more awareness about biomedical waste management to prevent outbreaks; maintaining better labs and hospital environments is in focus, but there is much more to be done to ensure reliable and accurate results."

## The shortage of manpower

There is a significant shortage of full-time doctors and staff in the diagnostics industry. This situation makes it difficult for standalone diagnostic centres which may not be able to employ well-trained lab technicians and pathologists, affecting the quality of outcomes. Accredited labs must mandatorily employ a full-time lab technician/phlebotomist and a radiologist.

The Health Ministry's own research has indicated that India has the disadvantage of not having enough microbiologists and some places do not even have enough qualified doctors or technicians to operate a lab. There is also a lack of upgrading and training, as well as geographical inequality in quality of services, the research said.

A top management official from a leading diagnostics chain based in North India points out: "The challenge lies in defining an unregulated lab. How do you define one? We do not have enough pathologists to run the number of labs there are in the country. This is where the problem comes in: some lab reports are issued with 'bought out' signatures from doctors, where signatures are obtained in exchange for money, but the lab has a licence obtained from local authorities and shows the presence of ghost employees and doctors."

This problem persists across most States. In Karnataka, the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act governs healthcare facilities; however, the scope and enforcement of this Act in the laboratories and diagnostics sector is limited, particularly in areas like quality assurance and patient safety.

Many hospitals and doctors running clinics have side laboratories and sample collection centres. "These are 'technician-only' facilities that are not run or owned by qualified pathologists. With one pathologist connected to multiple laboratories, reports only have e-signatures of the pathologists. Although e-signatures are allowed, there is no rule on the number of laboratories a pathologist can be connected to," sources said.

Lack of proper regulations is an area of concern in Tamil Nadu as well, said V. Parthasarathy, general secretary, Tamil Nadu Government Medical Laboratory Technicians Association. He pointed out that an announcement made in the Assembly to constitute a State Council for Laboratory Technicians in 2009 is yet to be implemented. "We still have private laboratories run by unqualified persons," he said.

## What does this mean for patients?

In 2019, Shankar tried to file an FIR with the Paranda police station and raised his concerns with the Grahak Manch (consumer forum), but to no avail. He has now appealed at the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court against the doctors of a local hospital in Barshi, where he got his sister treated.

Doctors from the Maharashtra Association of Practising Pathologists and Microbiologists (MAPPM) indicate that this is not the only such case – and their number is only rising. "A complex diagnosis requires a report from a pathologist. The machine doesn't give reports; it gives readings. A pathologist is required to analyse it," said Sandeep Yadav, president of MAPPM.

The issue affects doctors too: in November last year, a Maharashtra-based doctor, Rahul Mayur, filed a complaint of identity theft, stating that a diagnostic lab in Jalgaon was fraudulently using his name, degree, and signature to give fake reports to patients.

**There is a shortage of full-time doctors and staff in diagnostics. This makes it difficult for standalone centres that may not be able to employ well-trained lab technicians and pathologists, affecting the quality of outcomes**

The Maharashtra Paramedical Council Act, 2011, has established a council to regulate paramedical personnel, including medical laboratory technicians. This Act and the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act 2021 do not permit laboratory technicians to practice independently and issue reports without certification by a pathologist. However, Dr. Yadav said such fraudulent practices were common. He highlighted the issue of "ghost pathologists" at many labs and underscored: "everything done at a lab needs to be supervised by pathologists and not technicians."

## The urban-rural divide

One of the other issues in India is the concentration of labs in the urban areas. As of the financial year 2023, only 24% of diagnostics revenue came from rural areas in India, though nearly 70% of the population in the country resides rurally. This is also mirrored in the government-private labs divide, with both doctors and patients pointing out that multiple gaps exist in government labs that make them a less favoured option.

For instance, in Telangana, a government doctor said lack of essential upgrades was a hindrance. Both Osmania and Gandhi hospitals – major State healthcare facilities in Hyderabad – urgently required improvements, the doctor said, further noting that limited operational hours at government laboratories restricted access. "Even after diagnosis, the unavailability of specialists at government hospitals discourages patients and forces them to seek private care," the doctor added.

The problem of varying standards and shortage of staff ails the government sector too.

Paramita Sarkar, a final- year MD pathology student from Medical College, Kolkata, said there was a huge workload – over 800 tests per day – but a serious staff shortage. "Three of us work in shifts in the labs, but that is not enough. We need more technicians and people who can run the testing machines to ensure work gets done on time and faster." Tapas Pramanick, a medical officer at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, also said that with many district hospitals lacking decent testing facilities, most tests come to city hospitals, increasing the workload.

## The pricing problem

Pricing, as is always the issue when it comes to the private health sector, is of concern in diagnostics as well. A few government programmes and certain States are going some way towards addressing this. In January 2018, Telangana began the Telangana Diagnostics Programme or 'T-Diagnostics' initiative. As of October 2024, over 18.10 crore tests have been conducted benefiting 1.01 crore individuals, collectively resulting in an estimated saving of ₹1,100 crore in out-of-pocket expenses for patients. However, supply issues such as those of reagents are marring the programme, a lab technician said. In Kerala, the government has invested significantly in upgrading primary health centres to family health centres to provide a range of services, including basic laboratory investigations (at nominal rates) as part of its 'Aardram Mission.'

## Issues faced by labs

While there are many issues in terms of regulation that still need to be streamlined and implemented, representatives from the diagnostics sector say they too, want change.

In Kerala for instance, lab representatives say the space and educational requirements under the Kerala State Clinical Establishments Act are unviable. "There are some 6,500 independent small and medium paramedical labs in the State and if one were to go by the minimum standards only about 1,000 will be able to function. We have sought relaxations in the clauses regarding space requirement," says Shareef Paloli, State General Secretary of Kerala Private Medical Technicians' Association, and head, Kerala Paramedical Coordination Committee.

The State government also does not recognise paramedical degrees/diplomas even from recognised institutions in other States, he says. A two-year MLT Diploma/BSc MLT or MSc MLT conducted by medical colleges or other government approved agencies is required. "We are cooperating with the government, but our request was that rather than render professionals who have studied outside the State jobless, the government could conduct a training programme/exam for them. The government has now agreed to this in principle," he says.

The space constraints are a problem in T.N. as well: in November 2024, the Health Department, brought in amendments to the Tamil Nadu Clinical Establishments (Regulations) Rules, 2018, stipulating minimum space for sample collection for clinical laboratories – 300 sq ft in rural areas and 500-700 sq ft in urban areas. P. Kalidasan, national president, Paramedical Laboratory Educational and Welfare Association, says there is no need for such specifications. "There are nearly 10,000 laboratories in the State. Of these, at least 80% are small-sized. Among them, 30% are in rural areas. Small labs cater to around 10 patients a day and mandating 300 sq feet area for clinical laboratories cannot be accepted. The focus should be on adherence to quality programmes," he said.

The sector is willing to have regulations to bring in standardisation: the Karnataka Chapter of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists (KCIAPM) is asking for the strengthening of the Karnataka Act. "The KPME Act must be expanded to include licensing criteria, accreditation mandates, and penalties for non-compliance. Mandatory SOPs for sample collection, testing, and reporting should be put in place to minimise errors," said Aditya Agnihotri, KCIAPM secretary.

KCIAPM president Vijay Shankar S. said ensuring every lab is supervised by qualified pathologists and supported by trained technicians was vital. "Licensing should include a needs assessment to prevent over-saturation in certain areas while ensuring coverage in underserved regions," he said.

*(Collated by Zubeda Hamid, with inputs from Maitri Porecha and Bindhu Shajan Perappadan in Delhi; Afshan Yasmeen in Bengaluru; C. Maya in Thiruvanathapuram; Siddharth Kunar Singh in Hyderabad; Snehal Mutha in Mumbai; Shrabana Chatterjee in Kolkata and Serena Josephine M. in Chennai)*

## THE GIST

- India has a highly fragmented market with many small, unorganised labs, largely not accredited and following uneven quality standards
- Some reports are issued with signatures obtained in exchange for money. The lab has a licence but the rolls indicate 'ghost employees and doctors'
- Some States are addressing the price issue. Telangana has the T-Diagnostics initiative. Over 18.10 crore tests have been conducted. Kerala has its 'Aardram Mission' which provides basic laboratory tests at nominal rates

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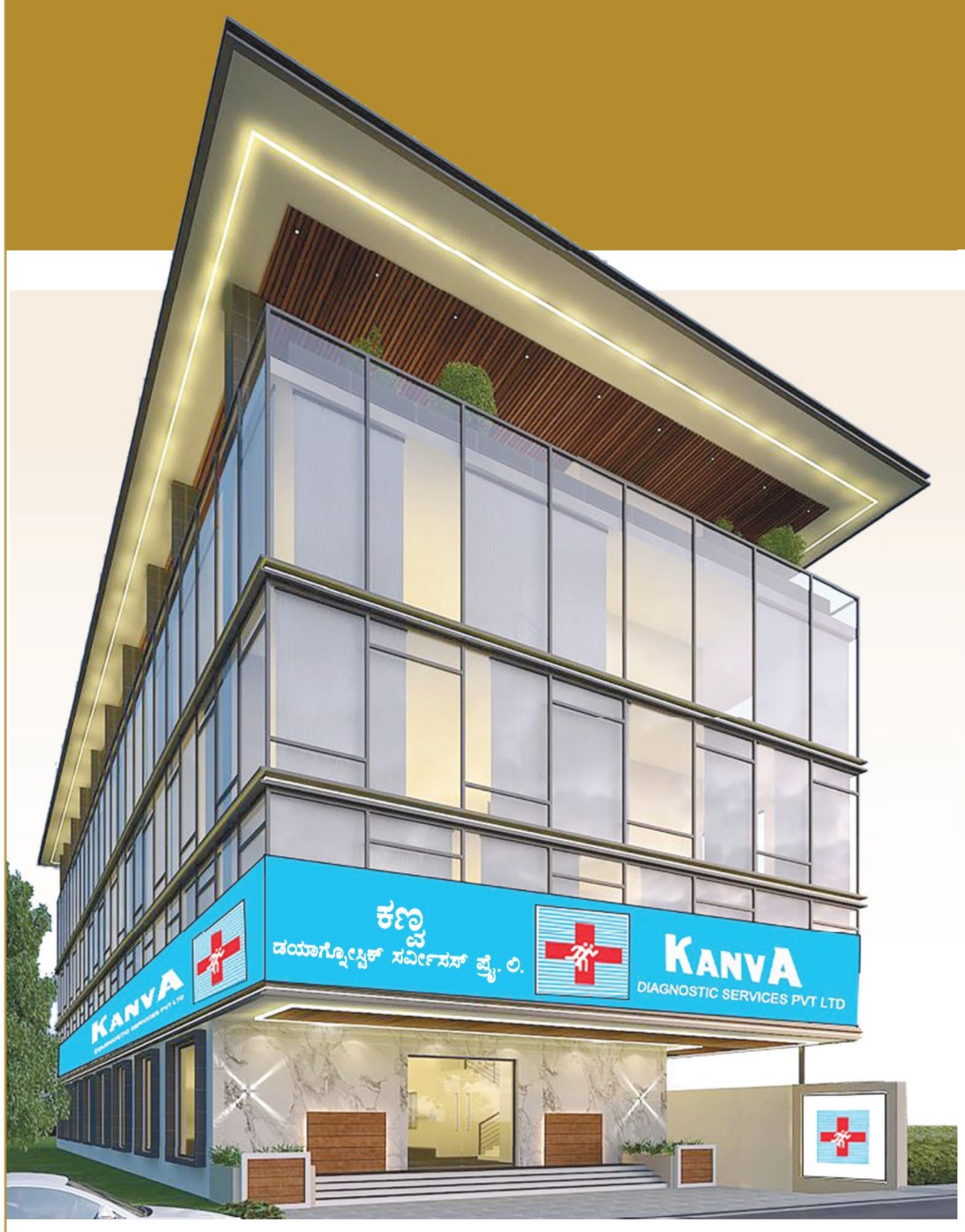


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# Text&Context

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## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Amount received by India in climate finance so far

**1.16** In $ billion. This includes $346.52 million from the Global Environment Facility, $803.9 million from the Green Climate Fund, and $16.86 million from the Adaptation Fund. Funds are got through the financial mechanism of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. PTI

### Illegal Indian immigrants deported from U.S. since 2009

**15,756** A total of 15,756 illegal Indian immigrants have been deported from the US since 2009, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said. The highest deportation was witnessed in 2019 with 2,042 illegal Indian immigrants being sent back. PTI

### Number of pending cases where the Central govt. is a party

**7** lakh. The Central government is a party in nearly seven lakh cases pending across courts, with the Finance Ministry alone being one of the litigants in nearly two lakh cases. The Law Minister said as of December 31, 2024, a total of 406 POCSO (e-POCSO) courts, are functional across 30 States and UTs. PTI

### Number of public grievances redressed in 2024

**28** In lakh. Over 28 lakh public grievances were redressed last year, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. These complaints were received on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System — an online mechanism that allows citizens to raise public grievances. PTI

### Number of medical colleges served show-cause notices

**18** The University Grants Commission has issued show-cause notices to 18 medical colleges for not complying with anti-ragging regulations. The defaulter colleges include two each in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry. PTI

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# Under the scanner: Adani's project in Sri Lanka

Why is Adani Green's power plant in northern Sri Lanka controversial? What are the environmental concerns linked to it? What did current President Anura Kumara Dissanayake promise before he was elected? Why did the Chairman of the Ceylon Electricity Board resign?

EXPLAINER

Meera Srinivasan

**The story so far:**

On January 24, news agency *AFP* reported that Sri Lanka revoked a 2024 power purchasing agreement signed with Adani Green Energy Limited. A Sri Lankan official told the agency that while the project itself had not been cancelled, the government has appointed a committee to review it. The Adani Group "categorically denied" cancellation of the project. The move drew attention, with many in Sri Lanka flagging President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's pre-poll pledge to cancel the "corrupt" project that has been mired in controversy from the time it was approved.

**What is Dissanayake's position?**

In its latest clarification, the Dissanayake government has said that there is no decision to cancel the project, but that it would renegotiate a lower rate of power purchase with the firm. Cabinet Spokesman Nalinda Jayatissa stated that the government is seeking a lower tariff that is below six cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), instead of the formerly agreed rate of 8.26 cents per kWh.

The Minister's announcement stood out, since the Dissanayake government in October 2024 told the Supreme Court, in an ongoing case, that it would reconsider the approval granted by the previous government to the Adani Group for the wind power project.

Furthermore, Mr. Dissanayake and his party have in the past underscored the need for a competitive bid. "We welcome foreign capital, including from the private sector. But all investments should come through a fair tender process," Mr. Dissanayake told *The Hindu* in September 2024. "If the government had gone for a fair tender process, we could have got it for half the price," he said in the interview.

**Still raging:** Former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with Adani group Chairman Gautam Adani.

**What is the project?**

Adani Green Energy Limited is to build a wind power plant project in the Mannar and Pooneryn towns in Sri Lanka's northern province, investing $442 million. According to Sri Lankan authorities, the project is expected to add at least 350 MW to the island's national grid by 2025.

In October 2021, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani visited Colombo and called on then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, weeks after his company sealed a deal with State-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) to develop and run the strategic Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal, which is currently proceeding. At that time, officials of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) told media that the Group also "explored the possibility of investing in Sri Lanka's wind and renewable energy sector".

**When was the project approved?**

In March 2022, the CEB signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Adani Green for the wind energy project, but the development was kept under wraps. It was a report in the local *Sunday Times* that brought the move to light. Ever since, the project has remained in the spotlight, amid dramatic developments on the island. The Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration came under fierce attack from the Opposition, for "choosing" the Adani Group for the project without calling for competitive bids, and bypassing due process. The Group's "back door" entry into Sri Lanka's energy sector disrupted the country's competitive electricity generation system, the main opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya contended, accusing the government of "pampering" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "notorious friends".

In June 2022, Chairman of the CEB M.M.C. Ferdinando resigned, days after he told a parliamentary panel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "pressured" Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to clear the Adani Group project. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka experienced a crushing financial meltdown, owing to an acute twin deficit problem. As a result, Mr. Gotabaya was dramatically ousted from office by a citizens' uprising, following which former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe took his place in July 2022, even as the crisis endured.

There was renewed thrust on bringing in foreign investment in to the country to rebuild its battered economy. In February 2023, Sri Lanka's Board of Investment approved a project to set up two wind power plants in northern Sri Lanka, with a $442 million investment from Adani Green Energy Limited. The two wind power plants – 250 MW capacity in Mannar and 100 MW in Pooneryn – were scheduled to be commissioned in two years, and the project would generate around 2,000 new jobs, the Board had announced. Despite U.S. short seller Hindenburg accusing the Adani Group of serious corruption in January that year, then Foreign Minister Ali Sabry told *The Hindu* that Colombo sees the Adani projects in Sri Lanka as a "government to government kind of deal" and was confident of their future. In May 2024, President Wickremesinghe's Cabinet cleared a proposal to purchase power at $0.0826, or 8.26 cents, per kWh from Adani Green Energy.

**Why are locals opposing the project?**

Residents of Mannar have been raising concerns over the project's likely impact on a crucial bird corridor in the region and on the livelihoods of local fisherfolk. Environmentalists, too, are opposing the plant. The Central Asian Flyway, an important migration route for many waterbird species, runs through Mannar. Last year, multiple petitioners challenged the Adani wind power project. The next hearing of the case is scheduled in March.

### THE GIST

- In March 2022, the CEB signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Adani Green for the wind energy project, but the development was kept under wraps. It was a report in the local *Sunday Times* that brought the move to light. Ever since, the project has remained in the spotlight.
- In February 2023, Sri Lanka's Board of Investment approved a project to set up two wind power plants in northern Sri Lanka, with a $442 million investment from Adani Green Energy Limited. The two wind power plants — 250 MW capacity in Mannar and 100 MW in Pooneryn — were scheduled to be commissioned in two years.
- The Central Asian Flyway, an important migration route for many waterbird species, runs through Mannar.

# On the appointment of ad-hoc judges to High Courts

What did the Supreme Court order? Have such appointments been made previously? What did the rule set in the *Lok Prahari* judgment state? What does Article 224-A mandate?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

**The story so far:**

To address the growing backlog of criminal cases, the Supreme Court on January 30, allowed High Courts to appoint retired judges on an ad-hoc basis, provided they hear only criminal appeals as part of a Bench led by a sitting judge. A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant relaxed a rule set in *Lok Prahari Through Its General Secretary S.N. Shukla IAS (Retd.) vs Union of India* (2021), which had limited such appointments to High Courts where judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength.

**How are ad-hoc judges appointed?**

Article 224-A, introduced by the Constitution (Fifteenth Amendment) Act, 1963, allows the appointment of retired judges to High Courts on an ad-hoc basis. Such appointments require the consent of both the retired judge and the President of India. These judges receive allowances as determined by the President's order and exercise the same jurisdiction, powers, and privileges as a sitting High Court judge. The detailed procedure for such appointments is outlined in the 1998 Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).

**When are such appointments made?**

In *Lok Prahari*, the Court identified specific circumstances that could warrant the appointment of ad-hoc judges in certain High Courts. At the time, nearly 40% of judicial positions across all High Courts were vacant. The Court also referred to Law Commission reports from 1979, 1988, and 2003, which advocated for the temporary appointment of retired judges as an effective measure to address the mounting backlog of cases. However, the Supreme Court expressed concerns that Article 224A could result in "inaction in making recommendations" for regular judicial appointments. Consequently, the Court clarified that ad-hoc judges can only be appointed when recommendations for filling less than 20% of vacancies have not been made, after considering both the number of sitting judges and the pending proposals for judicial appointments.

The Court outlined several "trigger points" for such appointments, although the list is not exhaustive. These include – 1) if vacancies in a High Court exceed 20% of its sanctioned strength; 2) if cases in a specific category have been pending for more than five years; 3) if more than 10% of the High Court's cases are pending for over five years; 4) if the case disposal rate is lower than the rate at which new cases are filed (case clearance rate). The Court also recommended that each Chief Justice form a panel of retired judges, along with soon-to-retire judges, for appointments.

**What does the latest order say?**

The CJI-led Bench noted that, as of January 25, there are 62 lakh pending cases across High Courts, according to data from the National Judicial Data Grid. Of these, over 18.2 lakh are criminal cases, while more than 44 lakh are civil cases. To tackle this growing pendency, the Court decided to set aside the condition laid down in *Lok Prahari*, which permitted the appointment of ad-hoc judges only when judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength.

It further ruled that ad-hoc judges can only hear criminal appeals. Additionally, the number of ad-hoc judges cannot exceed 10% of a High Court's sanctioned judicial strength, meaning each High Court can have only 2 to 5 such appointments.

**Have there been prior instances?**

There have only been three documented instances of ad-hoc judicial appointments. In 1972, Justice Suraj Bhan was appointed to the Madhya Pradesh High Court shortly after his retirement to adjudicate election petitions. Justice P. Venugopal was similarly appointed to the Madras High Court in 1982. More recently, in 2007, Justice O.P. Srivastava was appointed to the Allahabad High Court to preside over the Ayodhya title suits.

### THE GIST

- A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant relaxed a rule set in *Lok Prahari Through Its General Secretary S.N. Shukla IAS (Retd.) vs Union of India* (2021).
- The CJI-led Bench noted that, as of January 25, there are 62 lakh pending cases across High Courts, according to data from the National Judicial Data Grid.
- To tackle this growing pendency, the Court decided to set aside the condition laid down in *Lok Prahari*, which permitted the appointment of ad-hoc judges only when judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength.

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**Application Notification No. MYS/COMML/01/2025**
**Dated: 30.01.2025**

The under signed on behalf of President of India invites application for engagement of STBA (Station Ticket Booking Agents) on Commission basis for **AJJAMPURA, SHIVANI, HARAPPANAHALLI, NAGANAHALLI, BYADRAHALLI, NAGAVANGALA, HONNAVALLI ROAD AND THOLAHUNSE** Railway Stations over Mysore Division.

**Last Date and Time of submission of application :**
15:00 Hrs. on 07.03.2025

**For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**

PUB/771/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Mysuru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

## TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

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**Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)**

**Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District,**
**Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600.**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

| Tender No. | Scope of Work | Due date |
|---|---|---|
| 242513 006191 | Procurement of Surface Liquid OBA for Unit - I | 20.02.2025 |
| 242513 006192 | Procurement of Sodium Sulphate for Unit - I | 20.02.2025 |
| 242523 003803 | Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film Roll, 70 Microns of various sizes (110 CM & 120 CM) for TNPL Unit - II. | 20.02.2025 |
| Email | 242513006191 ; 6192 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in<br>242523003803 - purchasepacking.u2@tnpl.co.in | |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/483/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

## KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

**(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)**

No. KPTCL/SEE(IT)/56108/8/2024-25 Date: 06.02.2025

**TENDER NOTIFICATION** (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE(IT)/EE(IT-1)/56108/8/2024-25 for "**Design, Development & Implementation of a Centralized System for the automation of G-T-D Process**". The bids will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & click on to hyperlink **"E -Procurement KPTCL" on or after 07.01.2025, 5.00 PM.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

**Sd/- Chief General Manager (Technical), Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, KPTCL, Bengaluru-560009.**

## Karnataka Bank Ltd.

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Phone : 080-22955928 (Gen)/22955929 (AGM)
E-Mail : blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website : www.karnatakabank.com
CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

**POSSESSION NOTICE** (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of **Karnataka Bank Limited,** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **30.08.2023** calling upon the borrower/mortgagor/guarantor- **(1) Mr. Merunandan K B** S/o Mr. Basaavaraju K R **(2) Mrs. Kusuma D** W/o Mr. Merunandan K B, Both are addressed at: No.169, Guru Kripa, 2nd Stage, 5th Cross, Gruhalakshmi Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079 **Both are also at:** No.119, "Devamashraya", 5th Cross, Near 50 feet Main Road, Budda Jyothi Layout, Chikkabidarakallu Village, Bengaluru-560073 to repay an aggregate amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.26,78,435.82 [Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Four hundred Thirty Five And Paisa Eighty Two Only] under TL A/c No.9047001600027101 along with future interest from 12.08.2023** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/ guarantor/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ guarantor/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **05th day of February, 2025.**

The borrower/ guarantor/mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Karnataka Bank Ltd., Bengaluru – Hesaraghatta Main Road Branch,** for an aggregate amount of **Rs.24,27,078.14 [Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Seventy Eight And Paisa Fourteen Only] under TL A/c No.9047001600027101 along with future interest from 12.01.2025, plus costs.**

[Your attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.]

**Description of the Immovable Property**

All that part and parcel of **residential property bearing Site No.119, Khatha No.119, measuring 2400 sq. ft**. together with building constructed thereon situated at Chikkabidarakallu Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk belonging to **Mr. Merunandan K B. Boundaries of property as per Document : East by :** Site No.118, **West by :** Site No.120, **North by :** Site No.116, **South by :** Road.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 05.02.2025

Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer
For Karnataka Bank Ltd.,

## SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL International School of Textiles & Management

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**TENDER NOTICE**

**INVITES SEALED TENDERS FROM TECHNICAL TEXTILE MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS**

SVPISTM, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Coimbatore invites sealed tenders from Technical Textile Machinery Manufacturers for supplying prototype / Laboratory model / Miniature equipment/Instruments dedicated only for academic activities in Textile / Technical Textile domain. For further details, **visit www.svpistm.ac.in**

Director

## ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ, ರಾಜಾಜಿನಗರ,
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**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ, ರಾಜಾಜಿನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಆರ್.ಆರ್.ಆರ್.ಎಲ್.ಎಫ್, ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ/ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಏಕಗವಾಕ್ಷಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಸರಬರಾಜಾಗುವ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳಿಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅನುಭವವುಳ್ಳ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ)** ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.50,000/–** (ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಐವತ್ತು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–02–2025 ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 03:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.02.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 03:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಪ್ರ)

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4867/ಎಂಎಎ/24–25 ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

## BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION

**Traffic Commercial Department, 2nd Floor, Shantinagar TTMC, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.**

No.: BMTC/CO/TR/COM1713/4505/2024-25 Date: 05.02.2025

**TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 33/2024-25**

**(Through e-Procurement Platform)**

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers/bids from the interested Persons/Agency/company on monthly license fee basis for running **Refreshment Room and Commercial Office spaces** through e-procurement platform.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Date of Pre-Bid meeting | **12.02.2025 at 11:30hrs.** | **Place**: Chief Traffic Manager(Com) Chamber, 2nd Floor, Central Office, BMTC, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru. |
| Last date & time for submission of bids | **07.03.2025 up to 17:00hrs.** | |
| Date & time of opening the Technical bids | **10.03.2025 at 11:30hrs.** | |

For further details on license fees, EMD & other conditions log on to: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Contact no: 080-46010000, 23010901, 22371090, 22340060, 22340948 or 7760997519 & 7760991222, E-mail: ctmc@mybmtc.com.

**Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)**

## केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government of India Undertaking)

**ARM-1 Branch,**
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001. Phone: 080-25310066,
E-Mail- cb2366@canaranbank.com

**POSSESSION NOTICE** Section 13(4) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas; The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank ARM1 Branch, Bengaluru,** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **26.09.2022** calling upon the borrower **1) M/s. Deepa associate**, **Represented by its Proprietor Sri Shivu Shivappa**, No.41 part C, 1st Flr, J C Industrial Area Bikasipura Bangalore 560062. **2.Mr Shivu Shivappa**, 48/A Honnu 1st G Cross, 4th Block 2nd phase Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore. To repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.19095807.40** (Rupees One Crore Ninety Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seven and Forty Paise Only) along with interest from **26.09.2022** and costs etc within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/Guaranter/Mortgagors having failed to repay the balance amount, due under the said demand notice, with up to date interest, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the entire Mortgaged property/ies described herein below, with all the constructions thereon, in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **3rd day of February of the year 2025.**

The borrower/Guaranter/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs.19095807.40** (Rupees One Crore Ninety Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seven and Forty Paisa Only) along with interest from **01.01.2025** and costs and interest thereon.

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of the immovable Properties:** All that pice and parcel of the property bearing corporation No.242(Old No:78/1-1) situated at magadi Road, bengalore-560023, measuring East To West 45+42/2 and north to South 72+50/2 having total area of approximately 2650 Sqft and Bounded on East By :Corporation no.78/1-2 belonging to C.Param shivaiah, West by Shankarappa Shivappa complex, North by: Corporation No.78 and South by: Magadi Road.

**Name of Title Holder: Sri S. Shivappa**

Date : 03.02.2025
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/-Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

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### PERSONAL

#### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, RITU** Gupta W/O Karan Aggarwal R/O B–4604, Brigade Meadows, Udayapura Post, Kanakapura Main Road, Bangalore–560082 Have Changed My Name To Mrs. Ritu Aggarwal Vide Affidavit Dated 05–02–2025 Sworn Before Notary Aravind Patil G. G,Bengaluru.

**I, VIKRAM** Kumar B Jain, aged about 41 years, S/o. Babulal M, residing at #F-1701, F Block, 17th Floor, ETA Star Garden Apartment, Magadi Road, Bengaluru 560023 have changed my name to Vikram Kumar vide Affidavit Dated: 06/02/2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

### OTHERS

✔ **Exchange old, torn and any currency in Bangalore. Contact 9620201288**

### LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-7)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 7029 OF 2022
Hg. 15/03/2025

BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M. Rohit Ali S/o Ishrath Ali M, Aged about 25 years.
...PLAINTIFF
AND:
Mr. Doraswamy N. S/o Narayanappa, Aged about 43 years, R/a No 1151, 9th Cross, Near Maheshwaramma Temple, Maheshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560057
...DEFENDANT

Summons/Notice Through Paper Publication

Mr. Doraswamy N. S/o Narayanappa, Aged about 43 years, R/a No 1151, 9th Cross, Near Maheshwaramma Temple, Maheshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560057
...DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 5,34,691/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble City Civil & Session Judge Court (CCH-07); At Bengaluru, in person or by a Advocate/Pleader on 15/03/2025 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the questions of the same. failing which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE"
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this day of 31/01/2025

By Order of the Court
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. K N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate No.177/1 (88),
1st Floor, Besides 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru- 560002

## बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

भारत सरकार का उद्यम
एक परिवार एक बैंक

**FOR BREAK-OPEN LOCKER DUE TO NON PAYMENT OF RENT**

**Bank of Maharashtra** **Bangalore Zone**

This is to inform you that locker holders of our following branches relating to the locker accounts as under have failed and neglected to pay the prescribed locker rent for more than 3 years in spite of our various notices and demands made to them. As per terms and conditions agreed by the locker holder, the bank will be at liberty to break open the said lockers in the event of non-payment of rent. Accordingly, it is proposed to break open the said locker on **10.03.2024** by serving the formalities and the respective locker holders are advised to approach the branch before the due date and settle the dues to avoid action. If the locker holders fail to clear the due, the bank will go ahead with break open of lockers. The charges for break open would be borne by the lessee and the bank reserves the right to take legal action for recovery of the same along with rent arrears / other charges etc.

| Sl. No. | BRANCH CODE | BRANCH NAME | Locker No | Name | Due since | Locker Account Number | Address |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 162 | Basavanagudi | 152 | KAMALAMMA | 01.04.2022 | 1000044825 | No.44, Surveyor street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004. |
| 2 | 162 | Basavanagudi | 135 | B G SRIDHAR | 01.04.2022 | 1000044665 | No.77, III Block, Elephant roack road, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011. |
| 3 | 162 | Basavanagudi | 146 | KRISHNASWAMY V R | 01.04.2022 | 1000044767 | No.3, 5th Cross, Shankarpuram, Bangalore - 560004. |
| 4 | 344 | | 23 | VIMALA BAI K | 01.04.2022 | 1000115276 | F4, Kailash Apartment, 8th Main, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru. |
| 5 | 428 | Gandhinagar | B-13 | GOPINATH R SOMAYAJI | 01.04.2022 | 1000583324 | No.114, 1st Block, 14th Main, HMT Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560097. |
| 6 | 428 | Gandhinagar | B-30 | VIJAY Y H KUMAR | 01.04.2022 | 1000589202 | No.278, 4th Main, 17th Cross, Sadashivnagar, BengalURU - 560080. |
| 7 | 428 | Gandhinagar | 4 | XAVIER JESURAJ A | 01.04.2022 | 1001214164 | No.U64, 6th Cross, 5th Main, Swathanthra Nagar, Sriamapuram Post, Bengaluru - 21. |
| 8 | 1021 | Mico Layout | B212 | NAJEEBA IBRAHIM ALI | 01.04.2022 | 1001911562 | No.20, Mango Groove, Konanakunte cross, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560062. |
| 9 | 1021 | Mico Layout | B271 | PUNYAJIT GUPTA | 01.04.2022 | 1001905706 | Door No 72, 8th Main road, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560076. |
| 10 | 1021 | Mico Layout | B146 | PRAVEEN P | 01.04.2022 | 1001737514 | LR-1, BDA BRM SFHS Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, 6th Main, Bengaluru - 560076. |
| 11 | 1021 | Mico Layout | B174 | JAGADEESH K | 01.04.2022 | 1002048251 | No.305, 3rd Floor, 7th Main, 5th Cross, RBI Layout, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru - 560078. |
| 12 | 1146 | Koramangala | C81 | UDAYA KUMAR SAMBRANI | 01.04.2022 | 1001545447 | No.22, 8th Main, 5th Cross, Jakkasandra block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034. |
| 13 | 1146 | Koramangala | C147 | ARTI SUDHIR NAIR | 01.04.2022 | 1001554224 | No.12A, Vaswani Astoria, Off Marathahalli Outer ring road, Bengaluru. |
| 14 | 1155 | J P Nagar Bangalore | A61 | SUBRAMANYAM S | 01.04.2023 | 1000140155 | No.40, 15th Cross, 24th Main, 6th Phase, JP Nagar, Bengaluru - 560078. |
| 15 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A68 | SAROJ COMANDUR | 01.04.2022 | 1000732094 | No.20, 1st Main, Nataraj layout, 7th Phase, JP Nagar, Bengaluru - 560078. |
| 16 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A225 | PINKY ANUP KHANDELWAL | 01.04.2022 | 1000933585 | Vidhyashree Bungalow, No.1, Bengaluru - 560008. |
| 17 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A241 | VENKATA THIPPANNA RAO | 01.04.2022 | 1000939043 | T-308, 3rd Floor, Comfort palace, BTM 1st stage, AXA building, Bengaluru - 560068. |
| 18 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A284 | GUNJAN AMIT POHARKAR | 01.04.2022 | 1000944951 | T No K44, Diamond district Kodihali, Bengaluru - 560008. |
| 19 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A182 | RAHUL RAJABHAU UBGADE | 01.04.2022 | 1000927844 | B803, Salarpuria Splender, No N R Colony, Off Airport road, Bengaluru - 560017. |
| 20 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A175 | RASHMI MISHRA | 01.04.2022 | 1000927775 | No.243, 3rd Floor, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560008. |
| 21 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A209 | RAHUL JOSHI | 01.04.2022 | 1000933063 | A 408, Ozone Evergreens, Haralur road, Off Sarjapura road, Bengaluru - 560102 |
| 22 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A166 | SAMEER DATTATRAY SWAR | 01.04.2022 | 1000918863 | Flat No 06, Varsha Apartments, 3rd Main road, Defence colony, Bengaluru - 560038. |
| 23 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A298 | MITHLESH SAXENA | 01.04.2022 | 1000947022 | Flat No.1301, Shreeji dham society, Near Mango Navi, Mumbai - 400708. |
| 24 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A303 | REKHA N | 01.04.2022 | 1001753229 | G 299, 5th Cross, HAL Old township, Vimanapura, Bengaluru - 560017. |
| 25 | 1337 | Indiranagar | A234 | NIKHIL RANADE | 01.04.2022 | 1002209027 | No A705, DSR Spring Beauty Apartment, Bengaluru - 560017. |
| 26 | 1337 | Indiranagar | F289 | RAVI CHANDRA BELLAM | 01.04.2022 | 1000946958 | No.3, 1st Floor, 1st Main 2nd Stage, Domlur, Bengaluru - 560071. |
| 27 | 1433 | Banaswadi | SOW61 | D K ARUN KUMAR | 01.04.2021 | 1001256614 | No.403, Lakshmi Enclave, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Chikkabetalli, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560097. |
| 28 | 1654 | Chandapura | 115 | D KALAI VANI | 01.04.2022 | 1002103155 | No.1 219, Palaya colony, Pagalahalli Post A Jetihalli, Dharmapuri, Tamilnadu - 636807. |
| 29 | 1690 | Anekal | A21 | GOPALDAS SHRINIVAS PANCHARIYA | 01.04.2022 | 1002136498 | No.24, 2nd Main road, BS Market, JM Road, Bengaluru - 560002. |

Date: 07-02-2025
Place: Bangalore

Authorised Signatory

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

# भारत का राजपत्र
# The Gazette of India

सी.जी.– डी.एल.– अ.–01022025–260678
CG-DL-E-01022025-260678

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II - खण्ड-3 - उप-खण्ड-(ii)
PART II Section 3 Sub section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 549] नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, जनवरी 30, 2025/ माघ 10, 1946
No. 549] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025/ MAGHA 10, 1946

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

## NOTIFICATION

**New Delhi Dated the-01.02.2025**

**SO 553(E) . -**Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, SO 553(E) dated 30.01.2025 published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub- section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (Four and more laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH-75 on the stretch of land from Km. 118.601 to Km. 189.5 (Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, NH-75 (Old 48) Nelamangala Hassan Section K R S Agrahara Kunigal, Tumkur) in the district of HASSAN in the state of KARNATAKA in (The Special land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority, NH-48, Nelamangala-Hassan Section Kunigal) in the village namely, Devarayapatna in the District of Hassan in the State of Karnataka.

And whereas the substance of the said notification S.O. 5605 (E) dated 27.12.2024 has been published in **"The Hindu"** and **"Vijayavani"** both dated 01.01.2025; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the Competent Authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

**SCHEDULE**

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling **NH-75 on the stretch of land from** Km. 118.601 to Km. 189.5 (Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, NH-75 (Old 48) Nelamangala Hassan Section K R S Agrahara Kunigal, Tumkur) in the district of HASSAN in the state of KARNATAKA **(The Special land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority, NH-48, Nelamangala-Hassan Section Kunigal) in the villages namely, Devarayapatna in the District of Hassan in the State of Karnataka.**

File Number [F. No. NHAI/KNT-BNG/HAS/LA/27002/2/3D]

District:. Hassan
https://egazette.gov.in Publication date 30.01.2025
https://egazette.gov.in/
https://morth.gov.in/...
https://bhoomirashi.gov.in/..

# Three-member taluk-level panels to review SSLC internal marks

When the records of select schools were verified at the KSEAB, the board observed that there was a huge difference between the actual marks scored by the students in the assessments and activities, and the marks entered in the database

**Jayanth R.**
BENGALURU

The SSLC examination will start on March 21 across the State, and 80% marks have been allotted for written examination and 20% for internal assessment. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has taken steps to constitute three-member committees at the taluk level to review the internal assessment marks given to class 10 students in all high schools under the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system in the State.

The Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) will constitute a three-member committee comprising a head master of a high school and two teachers from science and arts/language subjects in every taluk.

This committee will visit all the high schools in the respective taluk and review the internal assessment marks given by the subject teachers to class 10 students this year.

The SSLC examination will start on March 21 across the State, and 80% marks have been allotted for written examination and 20% for internal assessment. The written exam will be conducted for 100 marks for the first languages and internal assessment will be 25 marks. For the rest of the subjects, written exam will be conducted for 80 marks and internal assessment will be 20 marks.

**Problems with internal assessment scores**

The internal assessment marks are given based on the marks obtained by the students in a total of four Formative Assessments (FA) and eight activities of the academic year. However, the board has received many complaints about the negligence of teachers in scoring internal assessment.

When the records of select schools were verified at the KSEAB, the board observed that there was a huge difference between the actual marks scored by the students in the FAs and activities, and the marks entered in the Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS)/board database.

**Dereliction of duty**

Taking this issue seriously, the KSEAB opined that this shows dereliction of duty by the Head Masters, teachers and subject teachers, and decided to constitute the committees to verify the internal marks.

"The members of the committee will visit the schools and confirm that the FAs and activities have been conducted at the school level as per the rules and that the students have been given subject-wise internal assessment marks based on the quality," said a KSEAB official.

Further, it said necessary action will be taken against the teachers who are found guilty of dereliction of duty, and a report will be submitted to the DDPIs concerned. According to the KSEAB schedule, February 23, 2025 is the last date to enter the internal marks online.

## Restrictions for students

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The KSEAB has restricted SSLC exam 1, 2 and 3 for students with less than 75% attendance.

It has also decided not to allow such students to take the internal exam.

Instead, they will be allowed to re-enroll in the schools in the academic year 2025-26 and take the exam.

"Even in the previous year, class 10 students with less than 75% attendance were barred from taking the exam, but SSLC exams 2 and 3 were allowed.

This year, for students with less than 75% attendance and who have completed 15 years and wish to take exams 2 and 3, steps will be taken to get permission from the government and facilitate the exam.

However, students who have not completed 15 years and have less than 75% attendance will not be allowed to give the exam for any reason. Instead, such students are required to re-enroll in school for the next academic year," KSEAB officials confirmed.

# Limited air assets on display during final dress rehearsal

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) showcasing breathtaking manoeuvres ahead of the Airshow. K. MURALI KUMAR K

Ahead of the Aero India 2025, which is to kick off on February 10, a final dress rehearsal was conducted at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka on Thursday. It was attended by school students and family members of the armed forces personnel.

A limited number of air assets that belonged to the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, and the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited were on display.

**Akash Ganga team**

The show kicked off with the Akash Ganga skydiving team dropping out of an aircraft in their canopies, followed by the Mi 17 helicopters carrying the national flag, the IAF, and Aero India flags. There was also a fly-past by the Sukhoi-30 Mki, Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Jaguars, NETRA Airborne Early Warning and Control System, AN-32 and Dornier aircraft.

The HAL designed and developed Light Utility Helicopter showed its capabilities to the audience for a few minutes. The rehearsal concluded with the IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team performing their signature manoeuvres entertaining the audience.

Aero India regulars like the Mirage 2000, Hawk-i aircraft, Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT), Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40, Advanced Light Helicopter, and Light Combat Helicopter were not part of the aerial display along with the IAF's latest fighter jet, the Rafales.

**Foreign aircraft**

The foreign aircraft that have confirmed their participation like Russia's fighter generation fighter jet Su-57E and Embraer's KC-390 Millennium tactical air transport aircraft from Brazil were also missing. However later in the day Su-57E arrived at the airbase, said the Russian embassy. The IAF's Sarang Helicopter Display Team, which has been displaying their formation aerobatics skills in the airshow for the last two decades, also did not take part. The Sarang (Peacock) team flies the ALH Dhruvs which have been grounded temporarily. The armed forces have temporarily grounded all their 330 ALHs following the January 5 crash of the Indian Coast Guard's ALH Mark-III during a training sortie that killed all three crew members onboard.

The team was formed in October 2003 and their first public performance was at the Asian Aerospace Show, Singapore, 2004.

# The Hindu Young World quiz sees enthusiastic participation

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Mayank G. Mattur and Hemansu V.M. from Sri Kumaran Public School emerged winners in the Senior category at The Hindu Young World Quiz which was held at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall on Wednesday.

The quiz, presented by State Bank of India, was open to school students in two categories: Junior (class 4-6) and Senior (class 7-9). More than 800 teams participated in the quiz hosted by Quiz Master V.V. Ramanan. The team of Gautam K. and Arya R. Jannu from BNM Public School and Shreyan Chhetri and Sai Srinivas N.S. from Delhi Public School took the first and second runners-up positions, in the senior category.

Arya S.K. and Medhansh N.M. from Presidency School, Nandini Layout were the winners in the Junior category. Gian M. and Srivatsa Sundararajan from Airaa Academy were the first runners-up, and Aryesh Mukherjee and Shervesh Mohan of Sri Kumaran's CBSE, the second runners-up.

UNIBIC is the Snack Partner and Naturo is the Treat Time Partner for Karnataka.

# Farmers' meet on Feb. 13 to express ire at govt. policies

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) will hold a district-level farmers' convention in Mysuru on February 13 to mark the 89th birth anniversary of the KRRS founder late Prof. M.D. Nanundaswamy.

The convention is also to express the farmers' ire against the anti-farmer policies being pursued by the Centre and the State, said Hoskote Basavaraj of KRRS.

The farmers' convention will be appointed by representatives of Samyukta Kisan Morcha, all State-level office bearers of KRRS, activists propounding the cause of agriculture, youngsters sympathetic to the cause of farmers, members of progressive organisations, etc.

**Bleak future**

Mr. Basavaraj said farmers will have a bleak future and agriculture will be badly affected if the current policies of the Centre and the State governments are not challenged.

# VTU convocation

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

Space scientist Tessy Thomas will deliver the convocation address at the second (part two) annual (2024-25) convocation of Visvesvaraya Technological University in Belagavi on Saturday. Dr. Thomas, who is the Vice-Chancellor, NICHE, Kanyakumari, the former Director-General of Aeronautical Systems and the former Project Director, AGNI-4 Missile, DRDO, New Delhi, will be the chief guest at the convocation. He will award postgraduate and research degrees of the technological university. The pass percentage for girls is 94.44 and for boys, it is 92.44 for all postgraduate courses.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | |
|---|---|
| **FRIDAY, FEB. 07** | |
| RISE 06:45 | SET 18:23 |
| RISE 13:33 | SET 01:58 |
| **SATURDAY, FEB. 08** | |
| RISE 06:44 | SET 18:23 |
| RISE 14:31 | SET 02:59 |
| **SUNDAY, FEB. 09** | |
| RISE 06:44 | SET 18:24 |
| RISE 15:32 | SET 04:00 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 32 | 21 |
| Mysuru | 33 | 13 |
| Bengaluru | 32 | 17 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**32°C** Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be slight cool. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**32°C** The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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# Unable to repay loan, man ends life

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Unable to repay a loan, a 26-year-old labourer allegedly ended life at his house in Gudibande in Chickballapur on Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Girish.

Girish borrowed ₹13 lakh to buy a tractor from private finance companies a few years ago. He planned to rent out the tractor and earn money.

*(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahaya Vani on 104 for help.)*

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My client **Mr. M.VINAYAKA** S/o Mr. G. Mallikarjuna Modaliar, Aged about 52 Years, Residing at No. 62/1, 3rd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018, intend to purchase Property bearing municipal katha No. 10, Old No. 315, situated at 2nd Cross, N.R. Colony, Bangalore, in BBMP limits, Ward No. 51, Basavangudi, PID No. 51-22-10, measuring East to West 44 Feet and North to South 40 Feet totally measuring 1760 Square feet, along with a building, more fully described in the schedule herein below from Smt. Jayashree Sreenath, Smt. Usha Shekar, Smt. Ahalya Chittarajan, Smt.Pankaja Viswanath, Smt.Bhargavi, Dr. R.N.Sreedhara, 7. SMT. R.N.LALITHA D/o Late R.Narayanaswamy, Smt. Mamatha, Mr. Suresh Bettadapur, Mr. Kumarswamy, Ms. Surabhi Venkatesha, Smt. Sujatha Kumari B A, Smt. Sowmya Bettadapur, Mr.Vishwas C Saligram, all are residing at No. 315, Situated at 2nd Cross, N.R.Colony, Bangalore – 4, who claims to be the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and apart from him, no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest and/or claim/s in or upon the Schedule Property. If any person/s has/have any claims, right, title and/or interest in or upon the same, the same may be intimated to me within 15 days from the date of this publication along with documents in support thereof. If no tenable objections are received within the said period, my clients will proceed to complete the transaction, deeming that there are no claims or objections whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property bearing municipal katha No. 10, Old No. 315, situated at 2nd Cross, N.R.Colony, Bangalore, in BBMP limits, Ward No. 51, Basavangudi, PID No. 51-22-10, measuring East to West 44 feet and North to South 40 feet totally measuring 1760 Square feet and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No. 316, **West by:** Site No. 314, **North by:** Site No. 315/10, **South by:** Road

**S.K. MITHUN**-ADVOCATE
No.19/1, 3rd Cross,
Shankarpura, Bangalore- 560 004.

**ಮುಖ್ಯ ಚುನಾವಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ**
ನಿರ್ವಾಚನ ನಿಲಯ, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 001.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22224212, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : ceo.karnataka@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPAR/01/SVEEP/2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2025

**ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ** (ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಭಾರತ ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಆಯೋಗದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮತದಾರರ ಮೂಲ ಜ್ಞಾನ, ವರ್ತನೆ, ಅಭ್ಯಾಸಗಳ (ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳ) Knowledge, Attitude, Practices Endline Surveyಯ ಕುರಿತು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು / ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಬಿಡ್ ಅನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.02.2025ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 15:30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.02.2025ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 15:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **10.02.2025 ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 15:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: **ರೂ. 1,00,000/–** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22224212ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/4875/2024–25 ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI**
No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-5/Tender Notification/2024-25/6537 Date: 04-02-2025

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**

1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the (10) Works 5054 Appendix-E for the year 2024-25 for indent No 18027, 17625,17992,15968,15969,17621-Gen (06), 19032,17702- CATII (A) (02), 17708-SC (01) and 18026-ST (01), 2) Estimate cost : **Min Rs. 100.00 Lakhs Max Rs. 200.00 Lakhs**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class III and above PWD Registered contractor, 4) EMD Amount : Min Rs 84,601.69 and Max. Rs 2,53,832.54, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting : 12.02.2025 (11.00 Hrs), 6) Last date for quries : 13.02.2025(17.30 Hrs) 7 Last date for Submission of bid : 17.02.2025 (16.30 Hrs), 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid : 18.02.2025 (16.30 Hrs), 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : 21.02.2025 (16.30 Hrs) 10) Enquriries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) **Note :** GST Will be Paid Separately, 12) Website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** 13) Bidders Should Note That : Note: 1)Undersigned reserved the right to Cancel / Postpone/ Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/925/KSMC&A/2024-25

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**PWD Division Kalaburagi**

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**
**CHENNAI DIVISION (MECHANICAL BRANCH)**
**GEM Bid No. GEM/2025/B/5890251 Date : 04.02.2025**

Divisional Railway Manager / Mechanical Branch / Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) intending to apply for GeM-tender for Mechancial works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **https://gem.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Description** | **Hiring of 5 Non AC Multi Utility Vehicles on Monthly Basis Cab & Taxi Hiring Services - MUV (2000 KMS x 360 Hrs. Local) For the use of CDO/ BBQ, CDO/GSN, CDO/TBM, ADME/W/TNPM & ADME/JTJ & 1 SUV (2000 KMS X 360 HRS LOCAL) FOR Sr. DME/Co-ord/MAS & 1 SUV (3000 KMS X 720 HRS 24 X 7 OUTSTATION) FOR C&W/MAS CONTROL OFFICE FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS.** |
| **Location** | **Chennai** |
| **Advertised tender Value in Rs.** | **Rs. 9474000/-** |
| **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.** | **Rs. 189480/-** |
| **Similar Nature of work** | **Applicable** |
| **Period completion months** | **24 Months** |

**Tender closing date and time 25.02.2025 @ 17.00 hrs.** Details of value of tender, EMD are given in GeM portal **https://www.gem.gov.in** For details bid submission please refer to web portal **https://www.gem.gov.in**

**Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical),**
Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 600 003.

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**
**INVITATION FOR TENDER** (only through KPP Portal)
**BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.**
Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

| Sl No. | Division | IFT Number | Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount | Last date & time for Submission of Tender | Date & time for Opening of Tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kaveri (O&M)1 | BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/AE /2024/2868/2024-25 Dt:01.02.2025 (Reserved for SC Category) | ₹ 13,96,009/- / ₹ 17,500/- | 20.02.2025 after 4:00 pm | 21.02.2025 after 4:01 pm |
| 2. | | BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/AE /2024/2872/2024-25 Dt:01.02.2025 (Reserved for ST Category) | ₹ 14,34,003/- / ₹ 18,000/- | | |
| 3. | | BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/AE /2024/2870/2024-25 Dt:01.02.2025 (Reserved for Category-1) | ₹ 15,44,659/- / ₹ 19,500/- | | |
| 4. | | BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/AE /2024/2876/2024-25 Date:01.02.2025 | ₹ 14,82,907/- / ₹ 37,100/- | | |
| 5. | | BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/AE /2024/2874/2024-25 Date:01.02.2025 | ₹ 10,07,780.4 / ₹ 25,200/- | | |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-1**

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/SI/4905/2024-25

**BANGALORE UNIVERSITY**
NAAC Accredited with 'A++' Grade
**Accredited by NAAC with A++**
**Pareekshabhavana, Jnana Bharathi, Bengaluru - 560 056.**

No.EX-III/Battery/Quote/2024-25 Date: 03-02-2025

**Notification**

Bangalore University invites quotations in two cover systems i.e. Technical & Financial from companies/firms towards supply of 32 batteries under buyback to the Office use to Examination Branch, Bangalore University, Bengaluru.

The Specification terms and conditions and Technical Bid from maybe downloaded from the University website **bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in** and the Technical and Financial bids should be submitted to the Superintendent, Examination Branch-III. Pareekshabhavana, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru-560 056, with in 30 days of publication of this notification. for any clarification/queries, contact Superintendent, Examination Branch-III on 080-229761210 or **e-mail: regeval_ex3@bub.ernet.in**

**Sd/-**
**REGISTRAR (EVALUATION)**

IN THE LIMELIGHT

# America's long-standing affair with television espionage

The reputation of 'the spy' in worldwide media has certainly undergone severe rehabilitation. What was considered in early literature a profession of deceit, has become a personification of national interests

Pallavi Keswani

For Netflix, 2025 began with a worldwide streaming hit – *The Night Agent: Season 2*. The pervasiveness of spy entertainment in American media meant that success was more a matter of routine, and Americans have indeed eagerly loved and followed along with the fictional pursuits of their national intelligence agencies. It took a little over a decade since the television boom for spycraft stories to start syndicating over the medium. Since the 1950s, there has not been a decade in American television devoid of a spy staple. With each show shaping, deepening, and reflecting the anxieties of the public watching it, U.S. spy shows have come to define an omnipresent storytelling medium.

The reputation of "the spy" in worldwide media has certainly undergone severe rehabilitation. What was considered in early literature a profession of deceit, has become a personification of national interests. The rise of spy fiction in literature coincided with official efforts following the Second World War to establish a robust intelligence agency. The United States formed the CIA in 1947, and the Agency has since then built a symbiotic relationship with Hollywood.

Through radio shows and then early television, the American audience was made familiar with the "agent". They become an invisible, imagined first line of defence against enemy infiltration. Poring through declassified FBI and CIA files, showrunners created a prototype of the spy that continues to live on our television sets today. Driven by morals of patriotism over the greed of materialism, spies are compelling characters. With the U.S.' tendencies to play World Police, the spy genre has always had an interested audience in need of comfort and reassurance.

That comfort is usually found at the end of a long drawn-out violent sequence, which is justified by the fact that the violence benefits American democracy. The plot structure of spy shows has shown little evolution, either safely transporting a secret object from point A to point B, or escaping something or chasing someone. Often, their enemies range from international counterparts, criminal organisations, or domestic terrorists creating mischief at home. The contours of the enemies do not matter as much as their existence.

Gabriel Basso as Peter Sutherland in *The Night Agent* Season 2. NETFLIX

**The Cold War and James Bond**

It may be a lucky accident for the CIA that the commercial usage of television, the peak years of the Cold War, and the most powerful years of McCarthyism overlapped to brew an espionage storm. In the early 1950s, spies on television were less the result of creative imagination and more the derivation of FBI files. With communism as the main villain, shows carried the binary understandings of WWII world order. Scripts often parroted the black-and-white doomsday scenarios promoted by the government and justified the existence of intelligence agencies as guardians of the American ideal. Things had to be more relaxed in the coming decade, even as the American government was running amok internationally.

Buoyed by the success of the first few James Bond films, espionage found a loyal audience and television was fast to respond. The 1960s saw television reach a saturation point with multiple shows running parallelly. Shows like *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* (1964), and *Mission: Impossible* (1966) cemented the essentials of the American spy genre. Unlike their predecessors, these shows were optimistic, self-assured in the might of America, comprising a stylish core group who jetted off to European locations and mixed with suspense and humour, while bringing contemporary issues of race and gender to the fore. The decade saw genre blending as well with *The Wild Wild West* (1965), bringing cowboy spies to the screens. Finally, *Get Smart* (1969) wrapped the decade up with show-mocking and satirising the genre.

The next two decades were a moment of self-reckoning for the American public who would go on to learn some uncomfortable truths about its government. In the last few years, the United States had not only faced the missile crisis, but had also actively contributed to the death toll of the Cambodian civil unrest, and still had troops on the ground in Vietnam. These international tensions were bookended by the Watergate scandal which seemed to blow the lid off. Accordingly, spies on TV adjusted and took a flight back home to spend more time on domestic issues. The agents started to become more cynical, with the 80s ushering in the age of the disillusioned spy. The political shift to conservatism, with the landslide 1980 election of Republican Ronald Reagan to the White House, was reflected in Tom Clancy's *Jack Ryan* novel series which hit the press in 1984 and was appreciated publicly by Reagan. Meanwhile, on television, *MacGyver* (1985) and *The Equalizer* (1985) featured disenchanted leads, who were reconsidering the American espionage methods.

With the fall of Soviet powers in the early 1990s, the American spy setup had to change its goalpost, and in the meantime invited influences from science-fiction and fantasy to release shows like *The X Files* (1993).

**Hollywood's relationship with CIA**

Within two months of the 9/11 terrorist attack, three U.S. espionage shows were airing simultaneously: J.J. Abrams' *Alias*, Michael Frost Beckner's *The Agency*, and the Kiefer Sutherland-starring *24*. Needless to say, these shows answered President George W. Bush's call for a "war on terror" with a jingoistic spirit that reignited public interest in intelligence agencies. When Sutherland as Jack Bauer completed his decade of American counter-terrorism, Claire Danes' Carrie Mathison came in from the wings to take the mantle of the spy who allayed American fear in *Homeland* (2011). The show shared the public's espionage enthusiasm with Joe Weisberg's period Cold War drama *The Americans* (2013).

This decade-upon-decade of television media wouldn't have been possible without the tacit support of the agencies portrayed in it. Information about covert missions is not made public in real-time. In this fog of secrecy, these fictional shows occupy the space of facts. The fact that it is common knowledge that the CIA and FBI commonly consult on the scripts, add a veneer of perceived legitimacy.

Since the 1950s, the CIA has been eager to consult on scripts. Presently, it has become a more structured affair with FBI/CIA entertainment-industry liaisons working closely with Hollywood directors. *Homeland* producer Alex Gansa, in a 2016 interview to *IndieWire*, candidly revealed the levels of access Hollywood gets. He admitted that a big part of the pre-production involved spending days in Washinton DC, in a "three-to-five-day information-gathering summit with CIA officials and intelligence officers" who inform them of the most relevant risks to the U.S. These, he said, contributed to the Season 5 plot lines referencing Edward Snowden, West Asia, and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

These agencies, therefore, script these shows themselves – setting the agenda and deciding the next villain for American television.

Spy shows have consistently ranked in the top 10 most-watched American shows each year. They now not only target the American public but seek to invite a global audience. The first season of *Night Agent* is the seventh most-watched English-language Netflix show ever. Yet, these shows have failed to grasp a semblance of nuance. Truth and facts often find themselves lost in exaggerated plots. Since this escapist thrill is what drives the audience to them, there is little incentive for change.

What makes spies compelling to the audience beyond being civilian heroes, is their cool professionalism that ensures the safety of the American public. Maybe not in the real world, but in the world of spies, your national "enemy" is bound to lose. With *Night Agent*, we see this enemy taking the shape of the U.S. government itself, with corruption seeping into the bones of the White House. The U.S. isn't letting go of its spies, and what remains to be seen is who these agents will fight against on TV, in the Trump 2.0 era.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

# *Know your English*

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

Long time, no see."

"Yes. Long time, no see, no know your English."

"True. I have a few questions for you. Please answer them first before discussing the principles of good writing."

"O.K."

"I hear a lot of people say 'cope up'. Is it correct?"

"No. You 'cope with something' and not 'cope up with something'. Raju is not able to cope with his work."

"What is the meaning of flippant?"

" 'Flippant' means' lacking in seriousness, treating serious things lightly'. Krishna is noted for his flippant remarks. The other day when his friend, Rama, was talking about his new-born baby, Krishna said: "A baby is a being with a loud voice at one end and no responsibility at the other! This flippant remark did not amuse Rama."

"What is the difference between 'notify' and 'notarise'?"

" 'Notify' means 'to make known, announce'. This is used generally in official communications. The department has not so far notified the dates of the departmental examinations. 'Notarise' means 'to certify as a notary'."

"Who is a notary?"

"A notary or a notary public is a person "authorised to perform certain legal formalities, especially to draw or certify contracts, deeds, etc". A notary is generally a lawyer. So notarise means to certify as a lawyer. It is different from 'notify'. By the way, the 'aw' in 'lawyer' is pronounced like the "au' in 'caught'."

"How is 'sew' pronounced?"

"It is pronounced like the word 'sow.' It is not pronounced like the word 'sue'. A 'sowing machine' and not a 'suing machine'."

"Does the word 'several' mean 'many'?

"No. It means more than two or three but not many: a small number but not very many. In India, it is used generally in the sense of 'many'. This is not correct."

"Last question. What is 'mythomania'?"

" 'Mythomania' is an abnormal tendency to exaggerate or utter lies'. The "y" in the word is pronounced like the 'i' in 'fit'. A person who has this tendency is a 'mythomaniac'."

"You have been emphasising the importance of brevity. Can you tell me a story in two sentences?"

"Sure. I will tell you two stories. Long, long ago, there was an Indian. Now there are millions of them!"

"You are being flippant. What's the other story?"

"Here it goes. A asked B, 'Do you believe in ghosts?' 'Yes' said B and vanished. Now you get lost."

*Published in The Hindu on April 18, 1995.*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

# On February 7, 1940, Disney's second animated feature film, *Pinocchio* premiered in New York city. In honour of the film, here is a quiz about the movie and its legacy

Abhinaya. K

**QUESTION 1**
The actor who voiced the titular character Pinocchio, also voiced another small character in the film. Name the other character and the actor.

**QUESTION 2**
Name the island in the Pinocchio world which is cursed. It has an amusement park that is designed to turn mischievous boys into donkeys.

**QUESTION 3**
The movie is based on the works of Carlo Collodi who wrote the original story in short installments in an Italian magazine. It was later published as a book. Name the weekly periodical and the original title of the story.

**QUESTION 4**
Pinocchio was the first animated feature film to win a competitive Academy Award. It won two awards for Best Original Score and Original song. Who sang the song which won the Best Original song award?

**QUESTION 5**
Styled with a signature blue top hat, this character is the narrator of the movie. The answer for question 4 is the person who voiced this characte. Name the character.

**Visual question:**
This director created a stop-motion animated version of the film which went on to win many awards, including an Academy Award. Name the director.

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. In 1918, Great Britain allowed men over the age of 21 and women over this age to vote. **Ans: 30 years**

2. Since 1838, the _____ _____, the United Kingdom's sole overseas territory in the Pacific Ocean, has given women the right to vote. **Ans: Pitcairn Islands**

3. Name the first place in India that gave women the right to vote, in 1920. Name the first princely state which granted rights, to vote and run for office, to women. **Ans: Travancore; Rajkot**

4. During the December 2015 municipal elections in _____ _____, the government allowed women to vote for the first time in its history. **Ans: Saudi Arabia**

5. Name the world's first major country to grant both women and men the right to vote at the same time. **Ans: Thailand**

Visual: Name the canton in Switzerland which was one of the last places in Europe to grant women the right to vote. **Ans: Appenzell Innerrhoden**

**Early Birds:** Tamal Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| Piyali Tuli| Sumana Dutta| Sonali Das

## Word of the day

**Arboretum:**
a facility where trees and shrubs are cultivated for exhibition

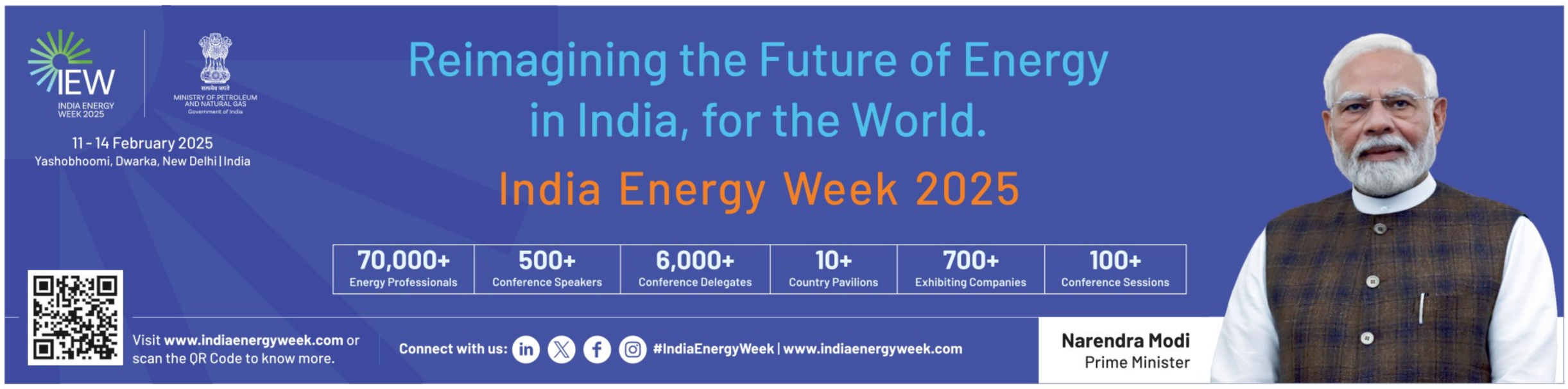
Synonym: botanical garden

Usage: *The government arboretum has been struggling financially for many years now.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/arboretumpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɑː(ɹ)bəˈɹiːtəm/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'




# Minor girl sexually assaulted

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

A man allegedly sexually assaulted a minor girl in a village near Belur on Tuesday.

The victim's parents lodged a complaint with Halebidu police. The incident happened when the girl was alone at home. They went to meet a relative. On return, they saw the accused running out of the house.

When the parents inquired , they came to know that she had been sexually assaulted. The police registered the case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and Section 64 of the BNS.

# IMA scam: HC upholds discharge of SI by trial court

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**Justice Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing petition filed by CBI**

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the trial court's order of discharging a sub-inspector of police from a criminal case registered in connection with the I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) Group of companies.

The order of the trial court discharging Gowrishankar, who was then working as an SI in the Commercial Street police station, is a well-reasoned one in tune with the law laid down by the apex court and does not require any interference, said the High Court.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by the CBI, which had questioned the July 15, 2024, order passed by the trial court in discharging the SI.

**Illegal gratification**

Mr. Gowrishankar was arraigned as accused number 28 by the CBI in its supplementary charge sheet over the allegation that he had demanded and accepted illegal gratification on various occasions from Mohammed Mansoor Khan, a founder of IMA group, through a person named Waseem to favour IMA not to take any action on complaints registered against the company.

The trial court, in its order of discharge, held there was no evidence to hold Mr. Gowrishankar *prima facie* guilty while also pointing out that the records of the investigation also indicates that the search conducted on his premises yielded no results.

The High Court said the trial court, after considering the entire spectrum of allegations against Mr. Gowrishankar noticed that except a diary entry reading 'Gowri-Waseem Bhai' in an Excel sheet, nothing else was found against him.

# Substandard salt: Company penalised

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU

A company was fined ₹1 lakh for manufacturing 'substandard salt' and marketing the same in Hanur town of Chamarajanagar district. Srinivas, Food Safety Officer of Kollegal Taluk, inspected Sri Mahadeshwara stores located on Bandalli Road on July 29, 2024. He found a suspicious batch of salt branded as VKS True salt. The officer then collected a sample of the batch and sent it to Mysuru Divisional Food Laboratory for analysis. The report has confirmed that the salt was of substandard quality, according to a press statement.

# Farmer dies in gaur attack

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

**The incident occurred at a coffee plantation at Haluvalli in Kalasa taluk of Chikkamagaluru**

A 73-year-old farmer died after he was attacked by an Indian gaur at his coffee plantation at Haluvalli in Kalasa taluk of Chikkamagaluru district on Thursday.

Raghupathi Hebbar had been to his farm around 11 a.m. Family members became worried after he neither returned home nor responded to calls and went out to look for him only to find his body.

An Indian gaur was spotted a few metres away from the body.

Raghupathi Hebbar is survived by his wife and two children.

The police and Forest Department officials visited the spot. The villagers staged a protest demanding permanent steps to stop the menace of wild animals.

"Two persons suffered injuries in similar incidents recently. The government should take measures to stop such incidents," said Chandrashekhar, a resident of Haluvalli.

Meanwhile, farmers of Kalasa taluk have decided to observe a 'Kalasa bandh' on Friday in protest against the incident.

# Meet on conformity assessment

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards, Bengaluru, hosted an Industry Meet and Workshop on "Recent Developments in Conformity-Assessment and Standards Promotion" on Thursday. Representatives of 30 large-scale industries from Bengaluru and Mysuru participated.

K.G. Nanjappa, Additional Director, Department of Factories and Boilers, was the chief guest. In his address, he emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts in standardisation and conformity assessment for global industrial growth. Narender Reddy Beesu, Director of BIS Bengaluru highlighted the workshop's goal to foster industry collaboration. Vinodini Kishore, Director at BIS, delivered an presentation on recent developments in standardisation..

**APPOINTMENT**

**SAYYID AKBAR HUSAYNI PRE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**
(Arts, Science & Commerce)
Rauza-i Buzurg, KALABURAGI - 585 104. (Karnataka)

**PRINCIPAL** URGENTLY REQUIRED

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Competitive salary and benefits. Accomodation for outstation candidates will be provided.

Interested candidates are invited to send their detailed CV with recent photograph to
kesocietyhr@gmail.com
or by post to below mentioned address.
Please mention "Application for Principal" on the envelope or subject line. Last date : 15-02-2025.

Secretary General
Khaja Education Society, KBN Hostel Building, Rauza-i Buzurg, Kalaburagi.

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**
Bangalore - 560012.
**ADMISSIONS 2025-26**

Applications are invited for: **(1)** Research Programmes [Ph D/ M Tech (Research)]; **(2)** External Registration Programme (ERP) [Ph D/M Tech (Research); **(3)** Course Programmes in Engineering [M Tech/M Des/M Mgt/M. Tech through CFTI Mode/Joint M. Tech/ 1-Year M. Engg/ M. Tech/M. Des. for Sponsored candidates (Govt & PSU)]; **(4)** Course Programmes in Science [M Sc in Life Sciences/ M Sc in Chemical Sciences]; **(5)** Integrated Ph D Programmes; **(6)** B.Tech in Mathematics & Computing; and **(7)** Four-year BS. (Research)].

For eligibility, areas of research/study, selection procedure, any other details, and for applying online please visit our website: **www.iisc.ac.in/admissions.**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Website opens for online submission of applications for Research, PG Course, Sponsored, Integrated PhD programmes and ERP | **04.02.2025** |
| Last date of online submission of applications for Research, PG Course and Integrated PhD programmes. (website closes at 23:59 hours) | **23.03.2025** |
| Last date of online submission of applications for Sponsored and ERP programmes (website closes at 23:59 hours) | **31.03.2025** |
| Website opens for online submission of applications for **Four- year BS(Res.) and B. Tech. programme:** | **01.05.2025** |
| Last date of online submission of applications for Four-year BS(Res.) and B. Tech. programme (website closes at 23:59 hours) | **06.06.2025** |

**Sd/-, REGISTRAR**

**Admission to MBA Courses in Kerala (KMAT-2025) First Session - Computer Based Entrance Examination - Applications Invited**

Applications are invited for the Computer Based Entrance Examination for admission to MBA Courses in Kerala (KMAT-2025 - First Session). Eligible candidates can submit online applications through the website **www.cee.kerala.gov.in** up to **10.02.2025, 4.00 PM**. See the Information Bulletin and Notifications available on the website for more details.

Sd/- **Commissioner for Entrance Examinations**
**D3/137/2025**

**भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कोट्टायम**
**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY KOTTAYAM**
(An Institution under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, governed by an Act of Parliament)
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Tel: 04822-202100 (Office), 202135 (Academics), 202110 (Security), 202102 (Accounts)
Email: registrar@iiitkottayam.ac.in, Website: www.iiitkottayam.ac.in

Advt. No. IIITK/01/12/2025/91 Date : February 03, 2025

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Interested candidates may apply online through **https://adhocrecruit.iiitkottayam.ac.in/** on or before **5.00 pm on 18.02.2025.**

**The online Interview is scheduled on 20.02.2025 from 10.00 AM onwards.**

**REGISTRAR**

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| Sl. No | Residential plots developed in Industrial Area | Details of Residential plots | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | LIG | MIG | HIG | Total |
| 1 | Raichur (Sector-2) | 81 | 205 | 89 | **375** |
| 2 | Raichur (Sector-3) | 73 | 143 | 81 | **297** |

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**Registration :** Starts from: **17th February 2025**
Ends on : **06th March 2025**
"Participate Through" e-procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Helpdesk Registration Only**
**Mr. Vijayakumar C.O - Mob No : 9986791981 | Mr. Haji C.O - Mob No : 9964089307**

For More Details, Contact: KIADB Zonal Office, #Com-2, Raichuru Growth Centre, Housing Layout, Yermarus, Raichuru-584134.
Email - doballari@kiadb.in | Website: www.kiadb.in
**Contact Details: 84314 96301 / 79752 34573 / 94481 09286**

**For Registration and Bidding Please Visit e-procurement Portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

# All eyes on High Court today

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka will on Friday pronounce its verdict on a petition filed by social activist Snehamayi Krishna seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged illegal allotment of sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The court will also pronounce its verdict on a petition filed by former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who has questioned the legality of the criminal case registered against him on the allegation of sexually harassing a minor girl. He has been booked under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code as well as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, who had reserved the orders in both the cases, has listed the petitions for pronouncement of orders.

# New videoconferencing platform for HC

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka will roll out a new videoconferencing platform, VConsol, in all its Benches – Bengaluru, Dharwad and Kalaburagi – from February 10 in place of the existing Zoom platform.

In a notification, the court has requested advocates, litigants, and government officials, and media personnel, who are desirous of participating in the court proceedings or watching the same, respectively, to register themselves on the VConsol platform by going through the user manual made available on the court's website https://karnatakajudiciary.vconsol.com/login

# Central leaders do not support rebel group, says Vijayendra

The party brass will make known their stand in 10 days, he says; BJP State president expresses anguish over senior leaders' silence when Yediyurappa is being constantly attacked and asks them to act at least now

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Asserting that none of the BJP central leaders was supporting the cause of party rebels who met them in Delhi, party State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Thursday maintained that the leaders would make known their stand about the ongoing turmoil in eight to 10 days.

"The central leaders will not take beyond 10 days to announce their stand. It is going to be a happy ending. Also, let me tell you that the speculation that some of the leaders in Delhi, including B.L. Santhosh (party national general secretary - Organisation), are backing the rebels is far from the truth. Everything will be clear when the central leadership announces its stand," Mr. Vijayendra told a press conference here.

B.Y. Vijayendra at a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Mr. Vijayendra's statement came a day after the party rebels returned from Delhi after meeting a few central leaders to seek his replacement.

**Aggressive stand**

Adopting an aggressive posture, he expressed anguish over senior leaders of the party State unit for not trying to stop those attacking veteran leader and his father, B.S. Yediyurappa.

"I am saying with a lot of pain that it's okay to attack me, but they are continuously attacking veteran leader Yediyurappa for the last one year. What pains me most is the fact that the State's senior leaders are keeping quiet instead of preventing such attacks against the person who has contributed immensely to the growth of the party. It is an unpardonable crime on their part to keep quiet. I appeal to the senior leaders to break their silence and take measures to stop the attacks on Mr. Yediyurappa," Mr. Vijayendra said, in an obvious reference to the "neutral group" of leaders in the party who have adopted a wait-and-watch policy.

When his attention was drawn to former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's statement that efforts should be made to find a solution to the internal tussle in the party under the leadership of Mr. Yediyurappa, the party State president shot back, "If Mr. Yediyurappa has to intervene, then the efforts to sully his image should stop. Those who can stop this attack should now step in. It is a crime on your part if you continue to keep quiet when Mr. Yediyurappa is being targetted. I know all about the neutral group."

> The central leaders will not take beyond 10 days to announce their stand. It is going to be a happy ending. Also, let me tell you that the speculation that some of the leaders in Delhi ... are backing the rebels is far from the truth.
>
> **B.Y. VIJAYENDRA,**
> BJP State unit president

Alleging that efforts were on to project him as an "offender" with allegations that he was not respecting the seniors and was taking unilateral decisions, Mr. Vijayendra said all such allegations were false. "In fact, party workers are happy with my work and they are with me," he said.

Taking exception to former Minister B. Sriramulu's remarks that he lacked experience, Mr. Vijayendra said though he lacked experience as State chief, he had the experience of working as party worker.

**Party president polls**

Replying to a query, he said the process of election or selection of the party State president was likely to be taken up anytime and completed by February 20.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bommai, in a press release, said he had no plans of calling a meeting of any faction, even as he expressed concern over the internal tussle. He maintained that the decisions of the central leadership are final.

# Patil: 'Invest Karnataka' will host 19 countries

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Global Investors Meet (GIM), Invest Karnataka 2025, set to be held from February 11 to 14, will host 19 country partners and nine dedicated country pavilions showcasing investment opportunities and trade collaborations, Industries Minister M.B. Patil has said.

The partner countries are France, the Netherlands, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea, Israel, Norway, Switzerland, Taiwan, Germany, Australia, Denmark, Poland, Italy, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Bahrain, and Singapore.

Mr. Patil said the effort was towards positioning Karnataka as a top investment destination across aerospace, renewable energy, electronics, semiconductors, and advanced manufacturing. "The Future of Innovation Expo will highlight advancements in mobility, defence, biotech, R&D, and precision manufacturing," said the Minister, in a release.

# Now, Congress MLAs seek replacement of in-charge Ministers in some districts

**Nagesh Prabhu**
BENGALURU

After Ministers loyal to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah sought the appointment of a full-time KPCC president, a section of Congress legislators have been seeking replacement of district in-charge Ministers citing various reasons, including their "lack of commitment" in the development of the district.

Party sources say that division of loyalty among the legislators between Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar appears to be a key reason for this demand in Davangere, Kolar, Kalaburagi, Tumakuru, Belagavi, and a few other districts.

Congress sources say that division of loyalty among party legislators between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar appears to be a key reason for the new demand.

**'Adjustment' allegations**

In Davangere, Basavaraj Shivaganga, MLA for Channagiri, has submitted a request to the Chief Minister for the removal of Mines and Geology Minister S.S. Mallikarjun from district in-charge responsibilities. The Minister's "political adjustment" with the BJP has embarrassed the rank and file in the party, he has said. Mr. Shivaganga, who has displayed his loyalty to the KPCC chief more than once, claimed that during the election for the director's post of the District Cooperative Central Bank, the Minister declined to support the Congress candidate. Despite being in power, the Congress was not able to get the post and the BJP gained a upper hand.

Two prominent MLAs – K.V. Nanje Gowda (Malur) and S.N. Narayanaswamy (Bangarpet) – have been seeking the replacement of Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh as the district in-charge Minister of Kolar. The legislators' major complaint is that the Minister has not been attending the district-level meetings and is "not visible" in the district. Mr. Suresh, who was busy handling the alleged MUDA scam involving the Chief Minister and his wife, was largely concentrated in Bengaluru.

**Quits post**

In Kalaburagi, senior legislator B.R. Patil (Alanad) has quit the post of political secretary to the Chief Minister following alleged differences with Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge. Mr. Patil claimed that most of the requests of senior MLAs had been rejected.

**In Tumakuru**

S.R. Srinivas, Gubbi MLA, has expressed his disappointment over the style of functioning of Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who is also Tumakuru district in-charge Minister, and Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna. The MLA's main grouse is the denial of the top post in Tumakuru Milk Union Ltd. (Tumul) to his wife K.P. Bharatidevi. Mr. Srinivas, who is loyal to Mr. Shivakumar, quit the JD (S) and joined the Congress on the eve of the 2023 Assembly elections. He openly hit out at the two Ministers. Dr. Parameshwara and Mr. Rajanna managed to get Pavagada MLA H.V. Venkatesh, from the Scheduled Caste community, elected as Tumul president.

In Belagavi district, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi's relations seem to have soured with Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar and MLA for Athani Laxman Savadi. The differences between Mr. Jarkiholi and Mr. Savadi have apparently widened after the latter failed to secure a lead for party candidate Priyanka Jarkiholi in the 2024 Lok Sabha election in the Athani Assembly segment. Ms. Priyanka Jarkiholi, daughter of Mr. Jarkiholi, was elected to Parliament from the Chikkodi constituency.

**Local body polls**

It is learnt that the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister have not been providing an opportunity to legislators to air their grievances against district in-charge Ministers in the Congress Legislature Party meetings and this triggered legislators to air their grievances in the public. Sources in the party fear that these grouses, if not addressed, would have an impact on the coming elections to rural and urban local bodies.

# Krishnaiah Setty sentenced to three years imprisonment in 2008 bank fraud case

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A special court in Bengaluru on Thursday convicted former Minister S.N. Krishnaiah Setty and three others and sentenced them to three years' imprisonment in a bank fraud case of 2008.

Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, judge of the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former and present MLAs and MPs, passed the order after finding enough material to establish the charges against the accused persons. The copy of the judgment is yet to be released.

Meanwhile, the special court released Mr. Setty and others on interim bail, valid for a month, enabling them to challenge the verdict before the High Court.

S.N. Krishnaiah Setty FILE PHOTO

The trial court has the jurisdiction in law to grant bail if the sentence does not exceed three years.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered a first information report (FIR) in 2008 based on a complaint from the Vigilance Officer of the erstwhile State Bank of Mysore (SBM) and filed a chargesheet under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act. It was stated in the chargesheet that the branch manager of SBM and others in collusion with one another, got housing loans sanctioned to various individuals through Mr. Setty's Sri Balaji Krupa Enterprises by submitting fabricated salary certificates of ITI, BEML, BMTC, Bescom, and KSRTC etc. ... and the branch manager had sanctioned loans to the extent of ₹7.17 crore.

The chargesheet had stated that by accepting such false and fabricated documents, loans were sanctioned and the outstanding loan amount was to the tune of ₹3.53 crore when the chargesheet was filed. The High Court of Karnataka in March 2023 directed the special court to complete the trial expeditiously.

# Book based on URA's lectures to be released today

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Azim Premji University will on Friday release 'Sahitya Sahavasa: Bhaashe, Sahitya, Vyakti, Chalavali – U.R. Ananthamurthy Maatukate', a book based on a video lecture series featuring Jnanpith award-winning author the late U.R. Ananthamurthy.

The book delves into the contributions of prominent Kannada writers, including Kuvempu, Da.Ra. Bendre, Shivarama Karanth, P. Lankesh, and Girish Karnad, as seen by Ananthamurthy

Literary critic Narahalli Balasubramanya will release the book, with Sharath Ananthamurthy, Vice-Chancellor of Kuvempu University, Shivamogga, presiding over the event.

The book will be released at 6 p.m. at the Indian Institute of World Culture, B.P. Wadia Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru.

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**e-tender notice**

e-Tender Ref.No:57/2024-25, Appointment of Contractor for Supply of Manpower at various departments at TANCEM, Registered Office, Chennai
Est. Value: **Rs.5.03 Crore, EMD: Rs.4,00,000/-**
**Submission of tender: Upto 12.00 Noon on 10.03.2025.**
***Important Note:***
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 18.02.2025 at 3.00 pm at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600035. The Tender document can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in
Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/503/TENDER/2025 **GENERAL MANAGER (MARKETING)/DRO**

# HC quashes FIR against Yatnal registered on Congress complaint

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the first information report (FIR) registered against Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, BJP MLA, on the complaint of the Congress that he had given a provocative statement "with an intent to cause riot" by stating that "a great leader had set aside ₹1,000 crore to become the Chief Minister by bringing down the present government in the State".

The FIR was registered based on a complaint lodged by S. Manohar, a general secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee on October 1, 2024, citing Mr. Yatnal's public statement made in September 2024.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed order while allowing a petition filed by Mr. Yatnal. Observing that "it failed to understand where from the statement would meet the ingredients of wanton, malignant, and provocation to cause a riot", the court said the "crime is registered for the heck of registration".

Permitting further investigation into such crimes without it having any of the ingredients, will be like permitting a reckless registration of the crime to be investigated into, the court said while stating that permitting further process would become an abuse of the process of the law and result in miscarriage of justice.

# NAAC bribery case: 'Action against professors if CBI provides evidence'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar has said action will be taken against professors and staff if the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) provides evidence of their involvement in the alleged National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) review committee corruption case.

M.C. Sudhakar

**'State not informed yet'**

peaking to *The Hindu*, he said the CBI had not informed the State government about the bribery demand allegedly made by NAAC inspection committee member Gayatri Devaraj of Davangere University and M. Hanumanthappa, Department of Computer Science, Bangalore University. "We have not yet received any official report in this regard," he said.

However, Bangalore University served a notice to Prof. Hanumanthappa on February 3. In his reply, Prof. Hanumanthappa claimed that he had no role in this case.

"Hanumanthappa has explained in the letter that initially he was not a member of the NAAC inspection committee. The Head of the Computer Science Department of Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF) in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, and Hanumanthappa are friends and they were present when the incident took place. An FIR has been filed against him. But no arrest has been made. Therefore, further action will be taken after discussing with legal experts," said Jayakara S.M., Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University.

**Six arrested**

Six arrested The KLEF was accused of offering bribes to get an 'A+' grade from NAAC. The CBI arrested six people, including Gayatri Devaraj, on February 1. It has registered a case and is investigating.

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**SECOND ANNIVERSARY**

Smt. USHA RAJAGOPALAN
DOB: 08.03.1958 - DOD: 07.02.2023
PGT (Hindi) Retd.,
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai, Etc.
"She Taught Values Beyond Textbooks"
Fondly Remembered by
Family, Relatives & Friends
99629 26578 / 95386 46688

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**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**16th ANNIVERSARY**

R RAJALAKSHMI
W/O. Late Navalpakkam Rajagopalan
"You are living in our Hearts"
Fondly Remembered By
Raaghavan and Sudha
Krishnamurthy and Sandhya
Sampath and Jayshree
Radha and Selvakumar
Kalyani and Suryanarayan
Grand Children and Great Grand Children...

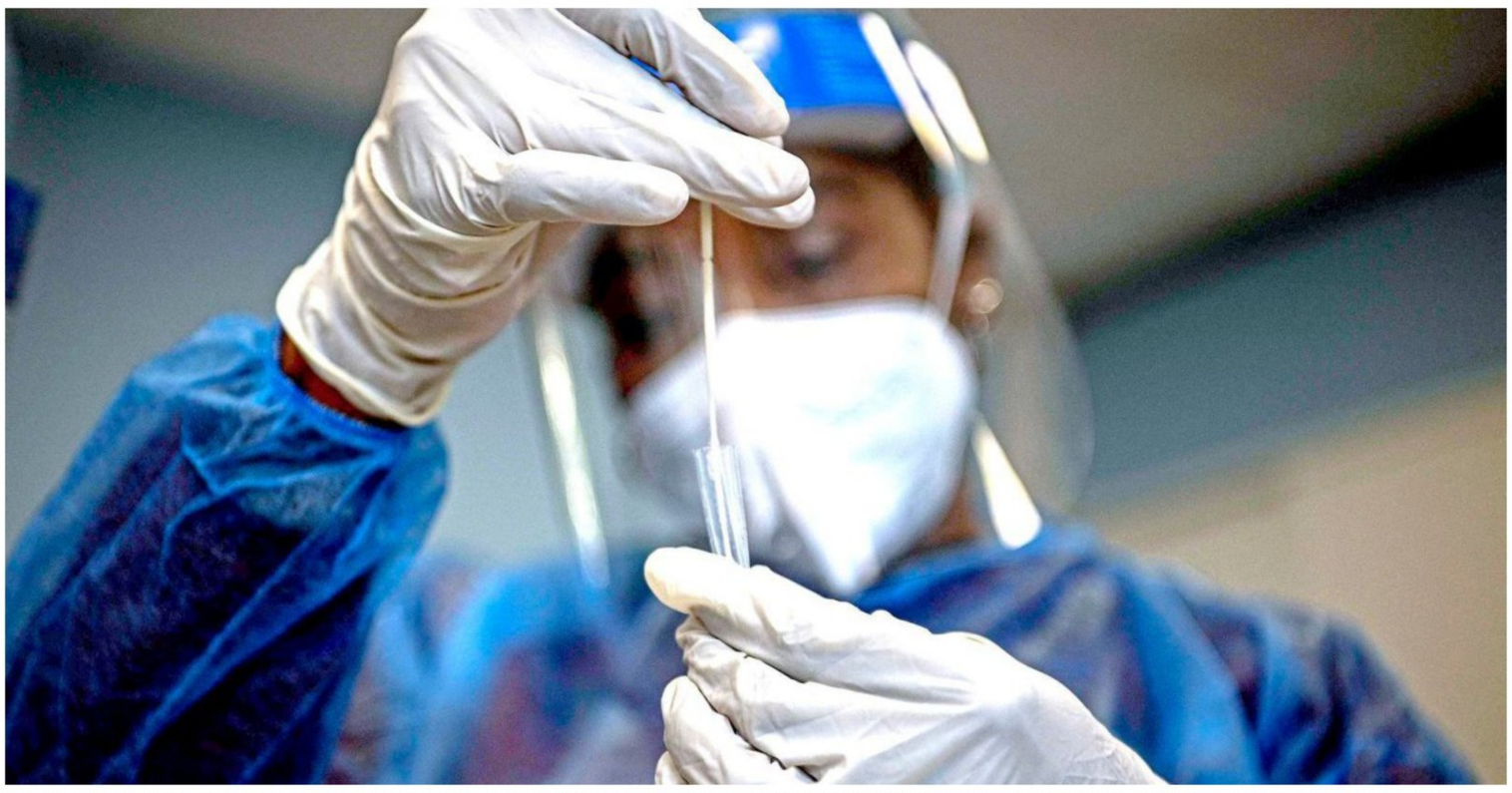
# ‘Data from hospitals critical in training AI, making healthcare better’

Professor Janet Thornton spoke to *The Hindu* about the importance of data infrastructure in improving healthcare, developments in the field of bioinformatics and where the studies could lead to

INTERVIEW

**Janet Thornton**

**Shilpa Elizabeth**
BENGALURU



I think we’ve come a long way in our general understanding of proteins. Now translating this knowledge into new medicines is only just starting, says Janet Thornton. AFP

Do you know what ontology is?” asks Professor Janet Thornton, a pioneer in structural bioinformatics, as I sit down with her for a conversation. I shake my head in the negative.

Taking a table in the room as an example, in a minute she explains the concept, which essentially is a framework that represents knowledge in a structured format and allows AI systems to understand it. I remember what she said previously during a more informal chat -- “Science is very easy if you try to understand it, if you break it down.”

Director Emeritus at the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), Prof Thornton led research groups studying the biology of proteins and ageing during her time at EBI and has been vocal about the importance of open data and tools. She was in Bengaluru to deliver a lecture organised by Shibulal Family Philanthropic Initiatives (SFPI), in collaboration with TIFR.

*The Hindu* caught up with Prof Thornton to understand her views on the importance of data infrastructure in improving healthcare, developments in the field of bioinformatics and where the studies could lead to.

**When you started off your career, there were about 20 known protein structures. And now there are about 200,000 structures...**
There were 230,000 in the database last Thursday. But now we can predict structures using Alpha Fold and AI, and they have predicted the structures for 214 million proteins. Going from 20 to 240 million is just phenomenal. It’s like discovering a new world. With the technologies, crystallography and electron microscopy, and now the prediction built on that data, we can see the world of proteins that basically enact the body. And it’s fantastic.

**Research has come a long way in this field. What does that mean for the health sector?**
It has had an impact, but it’s still really just developing. We know much more about our physiology - how metabolism works and how viruses invade.

For example, we saw with the COVID virus how quickly the structures of the spike protein, which helped in the design of the vaccine, could be characterized. I think we’ve come a long way in our general understanding of proteins. Now translating this knowledge into new medicines is only just starting. I don’t think we’re quite there, but I think eventually this will lead to a new way of doing medicine.

I’m not a medical doctor, so this is just from my perspective. But often medicines only treat the symptoms. I think that will change because once we have enough data, we can improve the rational design of new medicines. I think every health service in the world is struggling with the demand, but I believe we will gradually improve our understanding, and that will impact medicine for everybody.

**Capturing data and making it available to improve clinical practice is difficult also because of the ethics and privacy concerns**

Janet Maureen Thornton. K. MURALI KUMAR

I sit on the board of Health Data Research U.K. It’s a government-funded organisation to try to coordinate health data and make it available for research. It’s taken 50 years to establish this huge set of data resources that can be used openly for basic biological research. Health data is quite different. And in my opinion, it’s going to take 10 to 20 years to coordinate that health data and make it accessible. It’s difficult because the health data relates to people. It’s personal. So, there are ethical concerns which must be considered.

The other side is that you want to make this freely available for research, but there are also commercial interests.

So, I think the impact at the moment is still for basic biological research. The impact on medicine is just beginning, mainly with genetic diseases. There are some diseases that are more tractable. But chronic diseases, like cardiovascular problems, dementia, diseases of old age and so on are much more challenging. I think these areas remain challenging.

There are also opportunities with respect to the delivery of medicine in the hospitals. In the U.K., the NHS is really struggling because of the demand. I think there are ways to make hospitals more efficient and to handle the flow of patients.

**Have you ever felt that when AI becomes an obsession, other critical areas of research in bioinformatics itself might get overshadowed?**
The problem I see is different. In order for AI to be effective, you need good data. The only reason AlphaFold worked was because it was trained on 170,000 structures that had already been solved. The protein structure prediction problem is almost the ideal AI problem. When we look at health, the question is whether we can effectively use the data currently available. There’s a huge amount of data, but it’s not curated, stored, and shared. The lack of such data is a game-breaker. So, what question do you get the AI to learn how to solve? Adequately defining the question for the AI to solve is not easy and it is critically important.

Then there’s the problem of ontologies. If you don’t use the same words, the computer doesn’t know that it’s the same object. Similarly, when it comes to health the descriptions of diseases are not sufficiently standardised making it difficult to combine different types of data.

The other big problem is that every human being is an individual. And we all have different genetic backgrounds. Things affect each of us differently. That’s another complication. Capturing this data and making it available to improve clinical practice is difficult also because of the ethics and privacy concerns. Implementing solutions is another challenge due to the different procedures and protocols, often long and torturous.
Then there is the commercial involvement. Drug companies don’t share their data because commercially such data can be valuable.

In the U.K. alone, we have different hospitals run by different Trusts, and they don’t share their data. They don’t store it in the same way. They don’t use the same protocols. And that makes the data not so useful, so sorting that data out is a big, big problem.
For health data, it’s really challenging to make the data accessible for research. But it’s a critical health infrastructure. We need to make the data from hospitals visible so that it can be used to train AI programs that really can tease out new information from data. But you need good data. You need clean data. And what you get out reflects what you put in, as always.

**What is the direction in which you like to see the research progressing and impacting the humankind in the years to come?**
I think I’m quite naive about this because I’m not a clinician. But there are 8 billion people in the world and out of these there will be somebody who has a similar life journey to me with the same problems and the same positives and negatives. We could see if we can somehow bring together all those life journeys.

A doctor normally operates on his own experience which is somewhat limited with respect to the amount of information held by the doctor. My feeling is that if we could gather the data out there, there’s the potential for better, more accurate prognosis and diagnosis. I’d like to see the real understanding come from all the different technologies we’ve got in life sciences. There’s also the potential of improving ecology and agriculture.

And then there is green chemistry. We’ve been looking at enzyme mechanisms. There are many new enzymes in the bacteria at the bottom of the sea and in wastewater and so on that will be able to do new chemistries. So, if we learn how to design proteins that will do the green chemistry, that would be fantastic. It might even help to tackle climate change.

# *One-woman show to showcase journey from darkness to light*

*Birds or The Tale of When I Came Down To Earth* is being presented in two venues in Bengaluru this month

**Yemen S.**
BENGALURU

Ana Mirtha, a Spanish theatre artiste and artistic director of Knuk Theatre, is bringing her one-woman show to Ranga Shankara in J.P. Nagar on February 7 and at Jagriti Theatre at Whitefield on February 13.

Titled *Birds or The Tale of When I Came Down To Earth*, the play is produced by Sariego and directed by Sebastian Rad.

The synopsis of the play said that the play is “the story of an innocent girl, a rebellious teenager and a free adult along with a red cardinal, a woodpecker, an ostrich, and many other birds, with the intergalactic council, the karmic tribunal and the multidimensional exchange office. The play is a self-fictional true story, a multidisciplinary one-woman show, and an absurd and crude tale...”

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mirtha said that this play is autobiographical and close to reality. “The protagonist’s journey has been literally my journey from childhood till 2020 when I decided to reveal the secret that I had been holding on for 26 years. All of the galactic dimensions or characters of the play, that hold the narrative together, are for me a way of portraying an out of this world dimension or in other words, a higher and invisible order. Which gives us humans some sort of sense that something bigger than us orchestrates the part of our lives that escapes our control,“ she said.

I want to share my personal experience to tell the audience that my message is not an empty or fake spiritual one. It is a message based on true experience, says Mirtha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ana Mirtha

Asked what were the challenges she faced performing this play as a solo actor, Mirtha said that the biggest challenge was not really playing different roles, that is 15 characters. “It is actually a lot of fun for a performer, but to detach from such personal experiences to use those as dramatic material, to be able to make a play out of my most vulnerable and intimate life experiences was the challenge.“

Talking about balancing the darkness of human existence with moments of lightness and catharsis on stage Mirtha said, “I hope the audience can relate to the character’s journey in their own particular way. As no matter what the circumstances are, we all have gone through hell and back. We all have died and are reborn. But when we are experiencing the darkest and loneliest moments, we sometimes can doubt whether we will be able to make it to the other side.” “I want to bring a positive and encouraging message. Yes, it is possible, yes we can heal, yes we can create a new reality. It is a tough journey sometimes, but we cannot forget it is a journey. So, there is always light at the other side of the tunnel, as long as we keep the trust and most importantly, we keep on moving forward. I want to share my personal experience to tell the audience that my message is not an empty or fake spiritual one. It is a message based on true experience. If I could make it, everyone can. We just need to remind ourselves it is possible,” Mirtha added.

Tickets for *Birds or The Tale of When I Came Down To Earth* are available at the Ranga Shankara and Jagrithi Theatre box-offices and also at BookMyShow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 7, 1975

## Unsafe Bridges in Coorg

Mercara: Foot bridges and small bridges just enough to withstand the bullock cart traffic are the only means of communication in Coorg which have peculiar geographical features. These bridges were built during the early part of last century. When Coorg came under the Commissioner’s administration during British rule many Britishers settled here because of its climate and the scope it offered for developing it as plantation areas. These planters with the assistance of their own Government, constructed small and medium bridges across streams and rivulets apart from the major rivers of Cauvery and Harangi and their tributaries just enough to sustain the traffic of their cars.

## Indifferent Attitude of City Cleaning Staff

Bangalore: Bangalore is no longer the clean city it was a few years ago. Uncleared garbage, stagnant sewage water, choked up drains, dirty roads, sidewalks and markets are becoming common. Even the posh localities and the new extensions are not being maintained well.

Those who are running the now superseded Bangalore City Corporation merely say: “Bangalore is not as dirty as other Indian cities are” and they complain that the public is not cooperating with the city cleaning staff.

The public is intrigued as to what the City Corporation’s Health Department, which accounts for more than one third of the expenditure of the civic body, is doing in the matter.

# Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

## IN SHORT

### Where is Dawal Malik situated

Dawal Malik is a hamlet in Gadag district of Karnataka located on the outskirts of Mulagund town having just over 80 houses. Most of the villagers are farmers with small land holdings. Over time land holdings have got fragmented, leaving them with about 20 guntas on an average. Apart from the Urdu school in the hamlet, there is a Kannada medium school nearby.

### The beliefs that govern village

The houses in this village have no doors. Besides, there are no cradles for the new born and no cots for the women after they deliver babies. This has been a practice for generations and has remained unchanged, thought the hamlet has seen several other changes over time.
Water is being supplied through pipes once in five days.

### Myths abound about presiding deity

Dawal Malik, a Sufi saint is the presiding deity of the hamlet, who is believed to protect the residents from all evils, including thefts. Very little is known about who the saint was historically, though there are several myths surrounding him that the villagers here narrate. A dargah named after him is located on a hilltop and at its foot is the hamlet.

### 'Punishment' for man who steals

The prevailing belief in the village is that a man who steals from anyone here is punished with physical deformities and mental torture. The villagers claim that there have been instances of those who stole in the village coming back to confess to their crime and surrendering the material they stole, unable to bear the consequences of their act.

### A symbol of syncretic beliefs

Hazrat Dawal Malik Dargah has a syncretic tradition, where people of all faiths offer prayers and make offerings.
This in keeping with the Sufi traditions, prevalent especially in many parts of north Karnataka, where people cutting across religious barriers pray to Sufi saints.
Every 'Amavasya' (New Moon Day) the footfalls are more.

# Dawal Malik: A hamlet sans doors near Gadag

None of the 80-plus houses have doors because they believe that Hazrat Dawal Malik, a Sufi saint, protects them all

The entrance to the steps leading to Hazrat Dawal Malik Dargah. KIRAN BAKALE

Hazrat Dawal Malik Dargah located atop a hill just a km away from Mulagund town in Gadag district. KIRAN BAKALE

**Girish Pattanashetti**
HUBBALLI

When Mabubi Betageri from Hanumanal village near Dharwad came to Dawal Malik after her marriage to Ismail Mujawar, a lineman with HESCOM, she felt acutely uncomfortable living in a house that had no doors. "For almost two months, I could not sleep properly as I kept feeling that someone may barge in any time," recalls Mabubi, a Class X passout, who now conducts tailoring class for other girls in the hamlet.

But over time she has got used to the idea, with her house not being an exception. None of the 80-plus houses in the hamlet located just a kilometre away from Mulagund town in Gadag district in Karnataka have doors because they believe that Hazrat Dawal Malik, a Sufi saint, protects them all. A dargah named after him is located on a hilltop and at its foot is the hamlet.

Ever since Dawal Malik became her home, Mabubi has seen things change, concrete roads have been laid, Urdu school building is being built, water is being supplied through pipes once in five days, steps have been laid with barricades for the people to reach the dargah on the hilltop. But houses still continue to be doorless and no cradles are bought for the newborn.

### Poor families

Siblings Abdul Razak Mujawar and Noor Ahmed Mujawar, who are 50-plus now, recall having just around 20 houses in the village when they were children. Now there are 80-plus houses, most people here having the same family name "Mujawar." The meagre land holding that these families had has been further split leaving them little less than 20 guntas for farming each on an average. Apart from the Urdu school in the hamlet, there is a Kannada medium school nearby. Education has brought dividends. Few youths from the hamlet are now working in Gulf countries and a few have government jobs. But that has not changed the nature of the houses they live in.

Doors are not in the list of construction materials even when a new house is built. "Having a door for the house is bad for the family. We have seen families suffering because they decided to install a door. We know Hazrat Dawal Malik is protecting us all. There is no theft in the village. There are cases of a few who stole from the village coming back to surrender stuff since their act caused them suffering," believes Abdul Razak.

### Legends galore

Whoever you meet in the doorless village has similar tales to tell and there are several legends woven around the mystic personality of Hazrat Dawal Malik. There is a legend of tiger protecting the dargah, which was killed by a newly-wed couple, who ultimately died mysteriously. There is a legend of Hazrat Dawal Malik, who reportedly came on horseback, throwing his spear to create spring of water for the people. The versions vary from person to person but they all believe he is the presiding deity of the hamlet.

Women sitting outside their house which does not have a door, at Dawal Malik. KIRAN BAKALE

Even the rooms meant for the stay of outside devotees to Hazrat Dawal Malik Dargah have no doors. KIRAN BAKALE

### People of all faiths come here

What is of more significance is that Dawal Malik attracts people of all faiths. Almost every day there are visitors to the Dargah situated atop the hill and on every "Amavasya" (New Moon Day) the footfalls are more.

"Apart from Muslims, scores of Hindus and even a few Christians come to make offerings," said Shamsuddin Mujawar, who had got his turn to be caretaker of the dargah for a week when this reporter visited the place. Like him every Mujawar family in the hamlet gets a chance to be caretaker of the dargah for a week by turns.

The devotees come to the hamlet to offer sugar to the presiding deity and either tie a thread to railings or put a lock after tying the thread. When their wish is fulfilled they come back again making more offerings and untie the thread or unlock a lock. They also pour salt over "gadbadshavali" located on the way to the hilltop, a practice, which they believe will cure them of skin diseases.

Rehaman Mannur from Koppal comes to Dawal Malik in his autorickshaw with his family at least once in a month. Siddappa Parasappa Muddi from Hubballi believes the visit to the dargah of "ajja" (Dawal Malik) is good for his family. He used to come with his mother earlier and now comes with wife and children. "Many from our community make offerings on a regular basis," says Hubballi resident Shobha Bakale, who belongs to SSK Samaj (Pattegars).

### Not much info

There is not much factual information available on the Sufi. According to Abdul Razak Mujawar, Dawal Malik was a contemporary of Hazrat Bande Nawaz who came to the place some 800 years ago and stayed there for around 40 days. "People believed he was sharana (saint) and visited the place to seek his blessings. Our grandfather narrated the stories, which were narrated to him by his grandfather," he said.

There is also a lesser known legend linking Dawal Malik to Mallikarjunswamy of the period of Kalyana Chalukyas. In his doctoral thesis *Mulagund Naadu: Ondu Adhyana*, Prof. Dhanavanth Hajavgol says that Mallikarjunswamy had a disciple by name Dawal and after their demise, the Dawal-Malik dargah was built in memory of unique rapport that the guru-shishya shared. In his thesis, he also mentions a proverb in the region "Illiya manegalige baagilugalilla, baanatige horasilla, koosige totilla," which means there are no doors for the houses here, no cot for the woman who has just given birth to an infant and no cradle for the newborn. These practices are still in vogue.

### For generations

It is evident that for generations, the place has a syncretic tradition. Both Hindus and Muslims have been offering prayers at the dargah and it continues to this day. In fact, every year during Muharram, Hindus from Mulagund Town throng Dawal Malik and hold rituals and celebration for five days, says Abdul Rasheed Mujawar, who runs a petty shop selling various puja and other materials. His son Abdul Farooq is a civil engineer in Chitradurga now.

Zubeda Mujawar runs similar shop to eke out living. Her shop and few other shops selling various articles including grocery, however have metal doors and shutters. She says it is to prevent "entry of pet animals and stray dogs." But like others, her house too has no doors.

## INBRIEF

### Mercury levels over 37°C in all TG districts except Hyderabad

People in Telangana are feeling the rising temperatures, especially in the daytime. The maximum temperature was above 37°C in all districts except Hyderabad which recorded 35.3°C, according to Telangana Development Planning Society's weather bulletin issued on Thursday.

The highest of 37.6°C was recorded in Bheemaram of Mancherial, and lowest of 12.8°C was recorded in Kohir in Sangareddy.

### 11 MBBS students suspended in Kerala for ragging juniors

Eleven second-year MBBS students at the Government Medical College, Kozhikode, have been suspended on the charge of ragging first-year students there. The incident is reported to have happened at the college hostel sometime ago. According to sources, the junior students later lodged a complaint saying that they were physically and mentally harassed. However, no case has been registered as the police are awaiting detailed testimonies by the students.

### Training aircraft makes emergency landing; pilot safe

A Cessna 152 aircraft belonging to the Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy made an emergency landing at the Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad on Thursday afternoon after its nose wheel jammed during landing. The aircraft was on a routine training flight. The trainee pilot did not sustain any major injuries, an academy representative said.

# SC to hear Kerala's plea on Governors' conduct in March

**Governors in non-BJP-ruled States have triggered a pattern of delaying assent or indefinitely sitting on crucial Bills passed by the Legislative Assemblies, says petition filed by the State**

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Kerala on Thursday pushed for an early hearing in the Supreme Court its writ petition arguing that Governors in Opposition-ruled States have triggered an "endemic" of delaying assent or indefinitely sitting on crucial Bills passed by the Legislative Assemblies.

In an oral mentioning before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, advocate C.K. Sasi, for Kerala, said the court is currently hearing a similar petition filed by Tamil Nadu challenging the conduct of Governor R.N. Ravi, who sat on 10 re-enacted Bills, mostly dealing with higher education, before referring them for consideration to the President.

The court is currently hearing a similar petition filed by Tamil Nadu challenging the conduct of Governor R.N. Ravi.

Chief Justice Khanna said the petition by Kerala would be listed in March.

The Kerala's case had come up last in November 2023 before a Bench of then Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

Justice Pardiwala is currently hearing the Tamil Nadu case in a Bench comprising Justice R. Mahadevan.

In a hearing on November 20, 2023, senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, appearing for Kerala, had said eight key Bills were severally pending for eight to 23 months. The State had argued that the Governor was a part of the State Legislature under Article 168 and could not act in a way contrary to the wishes of the elected representatives of the people.

In the next hearing, on November 29, 2023, it had not escaped the attention of the court that some of the Bills had since been dealt with by the Governor. The then Governor Arif Mohammad Khan had assented to one Bill and referred the remaining seven to the President for consideration.

"He (Governor Khan) cannot blindly send the seven Bills to the President," Mr. Venugopal had contended.

# Walayar parents aided the accused to rape their minor daughters, says CBI

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The mother of the deceased Walayar girls had sexual relations with the first accused "in the presence of children" and also "abetted the first accused to commit sexual assault" on her younger daughter even after "knowing full well that the elder sister of the victim was raped and sexually assaulted by the first accused", according to the CBI.

The chilling details of the sexual exploitation and suffering endured by the two minor girls for years, which according to the investigation agency was abetted by their parents, emerged in the chargesheet filed before a CBI court here two weeks ago.

The mother entertained the first accused in her house with liquor on holidays when "she had the full knowledge that her elder daughter was raped and sexually assaulted" by the first accused. The couple "willingly neglected the children and caused them to be raped and sexually assaulted and abused" by the first accused, the CBI concluded.

The agency has arraigned the mother and her husband as the second and third accused and one of her close relatives as the first accused.

According to the CBI, the mother had witnessed the first accused outraging the modesty of her elder daughter in April 2016. Two weeks later, the father witnessed the accused again abusing the child.

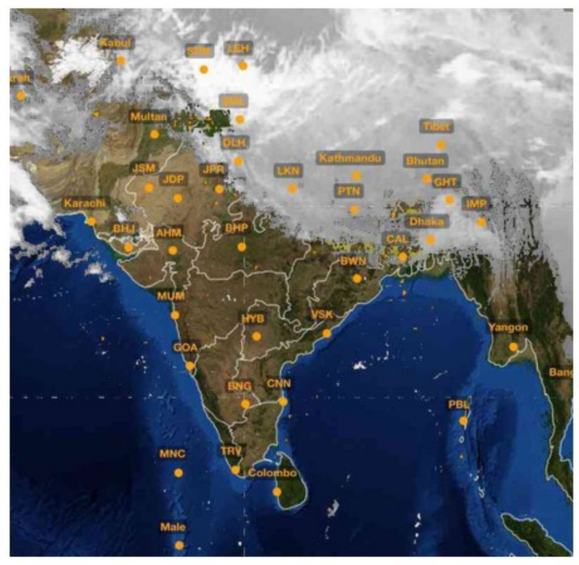
Yet, they did not "reveal the incidents to the police", according to the chargesheet.

The two girls were found hanging in the house, the 13-year-old on January 13, 2017, and the nine-year-old on March 4 the same year.

*(To overcome suicide thoughts, reach Disha at 1056)*

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Friday:** Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh and Odisha

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 30.0 | 15.5 | Kozhikode | — | 35.2 | 25.0 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 28.1 | 14.3 | Kurnool | — | 36.3 | 20.3 |
| Aizawl | — | 27.9 | 12.4 | Lucknow | — | 26.0 | 9.9 |
| Allahabad | — | 25.3 | 10.6 | Madurai | — | 33.5 | 20.7 |
| Bengaluru | — | 30.7 | 16.3 | Mangaluru | — | 35.2 | 22.5 |
| Bhopal | — | 25.8 | 10.8 | Mumbai | — | 34.4 | 17.6 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 32.7 | 22.8 | Mysuru | — | 32.0 | 15.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 21.9 | 8.6 | New Delhi | — | 23.6 | 8.2 |
| Chennai | — | 31.5 | 22.7 | Patna | — | 25.0 | 16.6 |
| Coimbatore | — | 32.8 | 19.2 | Port Blair | — | 30.3 | 23.8 |
| Dehradun | — | 22.3 | 6.7 | Puducherry | — | 32.0 | 21.5 |
| Gangtok | 0.4 | 15.0 | 9.5 | Pune | — | 35.3 | 19.7 |
| Goa | — | 35.0 | 22.0 | Raipur | — | 31.7 | 20.8 |
| Guwahati | — | 27.0 | 15.0 | Ranchi | — | 26.3 | 16.2 |
| Hubballi | — | 34.0 | 18.0 | Shillong | — | 18.8 | 8.1 |
| Hyderabad | — | 33.5 | 19.4 | Shimla | — | 14.4 | 6.1 |
| Imphal | — | 24.8 | 15.7 | Srinagar | — | 12.3 | -1.0 |
| Jaipur | — | 24.2 | 10.4 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 33.6 | 22.6 |
| Kochi | — | 30.8 | 24.2 | Tiruchi | — | 32.1 | 21.0 |
| Kohima | — | 18.5 | 6.2 | Vijayawada | — | 33.4 | 23.4 |
| Kolkata | — | 29.8 | 21.1 | Visakhapatnam | — | 31.0 | 22.7 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing** — **Yesterday**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .38 | ..63 | .19 | ...170 | ...141 | |
| Bengaluru | .15 | ..31 | .32 | ...154 | ...105 | |
| Chennai | .29 | ..— | 100 | .....55 | ...181 | |
| Delhi | .11 | ..66 | .14 | ...274 | ...262 | |
| Hyderabad | ...6 | 107 | .12 | .....97 | ...128 | |
| Kolkata | ...5 | ..47 | .38 | ...132 | ...125 | |
| Lucknow | ...7 | ..59 | .74 | ...125 | ...141 | |
| Mumbai | ...7 | 106 | .41 | ...189 | ...145 | |
| Pune | ..— | 156 | .49 | ...128 | ...188 | |
| Visakhapatnam | ...9 | ..79 | .18 | .....80 | ...111 | |

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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**Dilapidated dairy:** Despite its historical importance, the old dairy building at Kudige in Kodagu has been left in a neglected state. Local residents have raised concerns about its deteriorating condition. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The inauguration plaque that still remains intact. It bears the inscription, 'Milk Pasteurisation Scheme inaugurated by Lieutenant-Colonel Daya Singh Bedi, then Chief Commissioner of Coorg, on 24 July 1955.' K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

# Back to the humble beginnings of Nandini in an obscure Kodagu town

Not many know that the birthplace of Karnataka Milk Federation is a small town called Kudige in Kodagu district. **Darshan Devaiah B.P.** travels back to the roots of India's second largest milk co-op

In the quiet town of Kudige in Kodagu, an old dairy facility stands as a reminder of the humble beginnings of what would become one of India's most iconic dairy brands, Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) Nandini. Once a bustling cooperative hub where fresh milk was collected from local farmers, the site now lies in decay, with weathered walls, rusting equipment, empty crates, and broken foundation stones.

This reporter visited Kudige, the birthplace of Karnataka's first dairy cooperative, long before the rise of the Nandini as a brand, and found that while the original building was in a dilapidated state, a modern, fully operational dairy facility now thrives 500 metres away.

## Global recognition

Karnataka's Nandini milk brand has grown into a globally recognised name, engaged in a range of activities from sponsoring Scotland and Ireland's cricket teams during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup last year to constantly launching new products to diversify its business. It has been exploring new markets across the country, competing with Amul, India's largest dairy producer. However, the roots of this success story trace back to a modest beginning in Kudige back in 1955. The story of this humble origin has largely remained obscured.

Malavika, a long-time resident of Kudige, explained the historical significance of the site, guiding this reporter through the derelict structure. "I have been working here in the Animal Husbandry Department for the past 20 years. My father also worked in this dairy. Now that operations have shifted to the new building, the old one has fallen into disrepair," she explained.

The new building of Karnataka Milk Federation at Kudige in Kodagu. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Inside the old dairy building, the inauguration plaque remains surprisingly intact. It bears the inscription, "Milk Pasteurisation Scheme inaugurated by Lieutenant-Colonel Daya Singh Bedi, then Chief Commissioner of Coorg, on 24 July 1955."

Malavika guided us through the premises, showing an old weighing machine, various dairy processing machinery, and even glass bottles that were once used to distribute milk. "From this dairy, milk was supplied to different parts of Kodagu, which was then a separate state called Coorg. My father often spoke about how local farmers would bring their milk here, which was then processed and distributed," she recalled.

## Landmark neglected

Despite its historical importance, the old dairy building has been left in a neglected state. The site, currently under the control of the Hassan Cooperative Milk Producers Union (a part of KMF), has not received adequate maintenance. Local residents have raised concerns about its deteriorating condition.

Rudrappa K., a local farmer, expressed his disappointment. "The government should recognise the importance of this building and convert it into a museum or heritage site to showcase how the milk cooperative movement led to the creation of a successful brand like Nandini. Right now, the structure is in terrible condition. People throw garbage inside, and some even trespass into the premises. The authorities, either the government or KMF, should step in and restore this building," he urged.

## The transformation

Speaking to *The Hindu*, A.S. Premnath, former Managing Director of KMF, highlighted the historical significance of Kudige in Karnataka's dairy industry. "Not many people know that KMF had its origins in Kudige. The first dairy cooperative was established here in 1955. KMF itself was founded in 1974 as the Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation (KDDC) under a World Bank-funded project. It was later renamed Karnataka Milk Federation in 1984," he explained.

> The government should recognise the importance of this building and convert it into a museum or heritage site to showcase how the milk cooperative movement led to the creation of a successful brand like Nandini.
>
> **RUDRAPPA K.,** a local farmer

KMF currently operates 15 milk unions across Karnataka, sourcing milk from Primary Dairy Cooperative Societies and distributing it to urban and rural consumers. The federation has approximately 28 lakh dairy farmer members across the State.

As Mr. Premnath points out, Kodagu is traditionally known for commercial crops like coffee, oranges, and cardamom, but not for dairy farming. This is probably why not many remember that it was also home to Karnataka's first commissioned dairy plant.

"The Kudige dairy was established in 1955. Later, in 1974, an integrated project was launched to restructure the State's dairy industry on cooperative principles, laying the foundation for a new era of dairy development. With World Bank assistance, a dairy development project was initiated in 1975, initially covering Mysuru, Hassan, Tumakuru, and Bengaluru districts," he said.

Mr. Premnath, who worked at KMF for nearly 40 years, was himself born and raised in Kudige. His father also worked at the dairy. "I have seen the journey of this Kudige from my childhood. The growth of KMF and Nandini is an incredible success story that started in this small village. I still remember how ghee was produced using firewood to boil the milk. 'Coorg Ghee' was a sought-after product back then, just like Coorg Coffee and Coorg Honey," he reminisced.

## Growth and expansion

In 2024, KMF recorded a 14% increase in milk procurement and a 10% rise in sales of milk and dairy products. As it continues to compete with other milk brands in South and West India, KMF has also expanded its presence in Delhi to further extend its footprint.

Of the nearly one crore litres of milk procured daily, KMF sells around 65 lakh litres as liquid milk, including UHT Goodlife and curd. About eight lakh litres are converted into milk powder for the Ksheera Bhagya scheme, which supplies milk to schoolchildren, while six lakh litres are used for producing milk-based products like ice creams and sweets.

KMF Chairman Bheema Naik spoke about the cooperative's structure and its impact. "The Amul model of dairy cooperatives was introduced in Karnataka in 1974-75 with financial support from the World Bank, as well as Operation Flood II and III.

The three-tier Anand Pattern structure – village-level dairy cooperative societies, district-level milk unions, and the state-level federation –ensures sustainable dairy farming. KMF is among the few cooperatives that have successfully transformed dairying from a secondary occupation into a full-fledged industry," he said.

## Consumers chose brand name 'Nandini'

Interestingly, the name 'Nandini' was not chosen by officials at the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) but was suggested by the consumers who would go on to support and cherish the brand. According to A.S. Premnath, former Managing Director of KMF, in 1983, KMF decided to introduce a corporate brand identity for its milk and dairy products to strengthen its presence in the market. As part of this initiative, it reached out to consumers, inviting them to suggest a name for the brand. "The response was overwhelming, with a large number of consumers recommending the name 'Nandini.' Given the strong public preference for this name, KMF officially adopted 'Nandini' as the brand name for its dairy products," Mr. Premnath said.

The old dairy facility at Kudige in Kodagu, the birthplace of Karnataka's first dairy cooperative, long before the rise of Nandini as a brand. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Milk bottles still found at the old dairy facility. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

## Political controversies

Despite its cooperative structure, KMF has every now and then found itself entangled in the ups and downs of Karnataka's politics, particularly during elections and milk price revisions. Ahead of the 2023 Karnataka State Legislative Assembly elections, a controversy erupted when the then-ruling BJP government allowed Amul to sell its products in Karnataka. This sparked allegations that Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah was attempting to merge KMF's Nandini brand with Amul.

The move triggered widespread protests across Karnataka, with slogans like #SaveNandini and #GoBackAmul trending on social media. Protestors took to the streets, fearing that Nandini's identity and autonomy were under threat. However, despite these challenges, Nandini remains a strong, homegrown brand that has significantly shaped Karnataka's and India's dairy industry, experts in the sector say.

The love for Nandini in Karnataka transcends business, holding deep cultural significance. Kannada cinema legend Dr. Rajkumar served as Nandini's brand ambassador, free of charge, and even featured in the brand's first and only television commercial in 1996. His son, Puneeth Rajkumar, later continued the legacy, signing an agreement with KMF in December 2009, again without any fee. From a small village in Kodagu, Nandini has grown to become the second-largest milk cooperative federation in India. Reflecting on this remarkable journey, Premnath attributed KMF's success to unwavering consumer loyalty, and the dedication of lakhs of farmers. "The strength of Nandini lies in its cooperative spirit and consumer trust. The farmers who contribute to KMF have made it what it is today," he said.

## Challenges mount too

While the dairy brand has seen remarkable success, challenges persist as milk unions urge the State government to increase retail prices to ensure better remuneration to the dairy farmers. The farmers have been demanding a hike in incentives, even as KMF faces a glut in milk production. In June last year, the KMF raised milk prices by ₹2 per litre and added 50 ml to every 500 ml packet. However, KMF officials argue that this increment is insufficient. The federation is facing mounting financial losses from an unsold stockpile of skimmed milk powder (SMP), adding to the strain on the dairy sector.

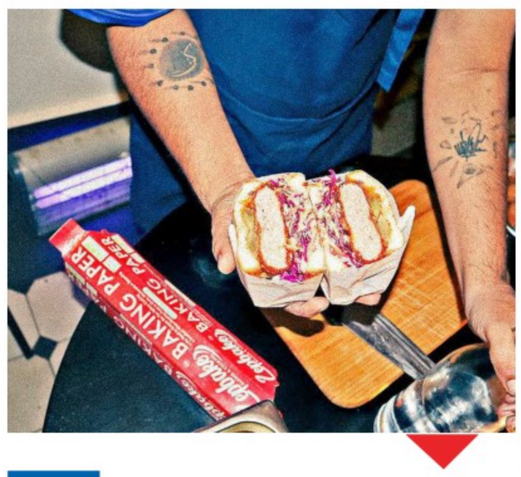
Amid this surplus, many of Karnataka's 15 milk unions have reduced procurement prices by ₹2 per litre, triggering discontent among farmers. Currently, most unions pay ₹32.5 per litre to farmers, but in districts such as Kolar, Mandya, and Ballari, the rate has dropped to ₹30. Dairy farmers are also frustrated that the government's ₹5 per litre incentive, introduced under the Ksheeradhaare scheme, has remained unchanged for over a decade despite increasing production costs.

The Ksheeradhaare scheme was launched in 2008 with a ₹2 per litre incentive, which was later increased to ₹4 per litre in 2013 and ₹5 per litre in 2016. However, since then, there has been no further revision, even as expenses for feed and maintenance have risen significantly. Adding to their woes, the State government has not disbursed these incentives for more than 10 months, leaving farmers struggling financially.

Farmers' leader Kurubur Shanthakumar criticised the government, alleging that apart from withholding incentives, farmers are also being paid ₹1 less per litre for their milk. "There are approximately 38 lakh dairy farmers in Karnataka, and over 90% of them are women. The government speaks about women's empowerment, yet it fails to ensure timely payment of their incentives," he said. He further emphasised that the success of the Nandini brand is due to the efforts of farmers, and therefore, they deserve to be adequately compensated.

# The Bengaluru sandwich club

**How three city-based brands** are giving the humble dish a makeover with artisanal breads, homemade relishes, and varied meats



**Nidhi Adlakha**
nidhi.adlakha@thehindu.co.in

## *Meaty affair*

Jassil Jamaludhin and Chef Carl Pinto have been best friends since sixth grade. After pursuing different careers in varied cities, their jobs finally brought them to Bengaluru at the same time.

In the city, Carl – a hotel management graduate who worked with SodaBottleOpenerWala, Bombay Canteen and Mimi Kakushi in Dubai – missed cooking. And Jassil, who enjoyed designing experiences, decided to kickstart Sando Club with intimate brunches at home. "We started hosting people in groups of eight at my home in July 2023 as a hobby and a way to meet people over good food and music. We hosted over 100 people across 10 to 12 brunches over the year," says Jassil, who has a background in graphic and product design.

It was over the course of these brunches that the duo realised how Bengaluru, and India in general, lacks a "solid sandwich shop". "That's what the menu of our brunches became. In October 2024, we put up a stall at the Big Feed Festival, and sold over 100 sandos in under three hours. Then we went to Echoes of Earth, and sold over 400 sandos in two days," says Jassil. "The love and support we got was out of the world, and showed us we're onto something."

Today, the brand offers three sandos: chicken katsu sando, tiger prawn katsu sando with soy cured egg, and a hot grilled sando with tomato-red bell pepper soup, that are offered at pop-ups or pre-orders over the weekend. "We're intentionally keeping the choices low, and ensuring every item on the menu is a mind-blowing experience for the customer," says Jassil, who sources the bread from a local artisanal bakery called Flour Affair. All sauces are crafted in-house, such as the hot sauce made from red and yellow habaneros, red jalapenos, and pears. The chilli-pear remains from the sauce are used to make their signature hot red jam, "the spice kicker in our hot grilled cheese sando".

For 2025, the duo is looking at expanding the menu with varied meats. "We are also looking at limited edition drops of meats such as duck, crab, etc. Right now, we're working on a completely different vegetarian sando, and experimenting with tender coconut, jackfruit, and cauliflower as the main ingredient," says Jassil, who also plans to open a sit down shop this year.

*@sandoclub.in on Instagram*

## *World on a plate*

Having lived in New York City for a decade, Candice Lock returned to Bengaluru and wanted to offer Indians a taste of the many "sandwiches from all over the world" that she had savoured in the US. At Candice's Gourmet Sandwiches, which she opened in 2018, she offers sandwiches inspired from "personal cravings". "I wanted to recreate all the sandwiches I used to eat while living in New York City, like banh mi from Vietnam, Cubano from Cuba, Pambazo from Mexico or Philly cheesesteak from Philadelphia, USA," says the head chef and partner, "I'm a big believer in using local ingredients, but my Bengaluru customers love punchy flavours so I experimented a lot with adding extra zest into each sandwich we offer."

Popular offerings include the chicken and cheese sandwich, chicken banh mi, Cuban sandwich, Philly cheesesteak sandwich, among others. "Each sandwich has its own sauce and condiment combination," explains Candice. For example, the chicken banh mi has morsels of chicken thighs coated with a lemongrass marinade and then grilled. "Banh mi sandwiches that originated in Vietnam are stuffed with other condiments. We add pickled radish and carrots, slices of cucumber and a handful of cilantro," she says, adding that they have recently launched fried sandwiches such as crispy fried chicken or fried mushroom in soft brioche buns.

*@candicesgourmet on Instagram*

## *All things homemade*

In 2020, two years after launching Loafer & Co with a range of millet loaves, ancient wheat sourdough, Japanese milk loaves, and other breads, Pranav Ullal officially launched the brand's gourmet sandwich wing. Albeit only at flea markets, weekend pop-ups, and conferences wherein he offers sandwich boxes. "The bread is what makes or breaks a sandwich. If you have good bread then everything else falls into place relatively easily. Good produce for the sandwich fillings such as leafy greens and good quality meat or vegetables are also key. Homemade condiments can be a game changer, and making things such as mustard, mayonnaise, and fermented vegetables like sauerkraut and kimchi can elevate any sandwich," says Pranav, who draws inspiration from sandwiches around the world.

Since he bakes his own bread, over the years Pranav has designed different sandwich breads depending on which variety he is making. "The menu is always different depending on the event. We have made everything from New York/Montreal/California-inspired bagel sandwiches to BBQ style pulled pork and grilled cheeses using locally sourced cheeses and other ingredients. We have also made vegan sandwiches with house-made vegan cream cheeses and vegetables sourced from farms around Bengaluru," he adds. Most condiments at the brand are also made in-house. These include a vegan pesto, vegan cream cheeses and aiolis. "When we can't make our own, we usually source from local brands or makers. Chili oils, for example, are usually from Brownkojiboy in Goa and fermented condiments from The Cubbon Table in Bengaluru," says Pranav who is in the process of setting up a permanent sandwich shop.

*@loaferandco on Instagram*

**Magical skyscape** From The Allure of Land by Manjunath Wali. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Dreams from a lost kingdom

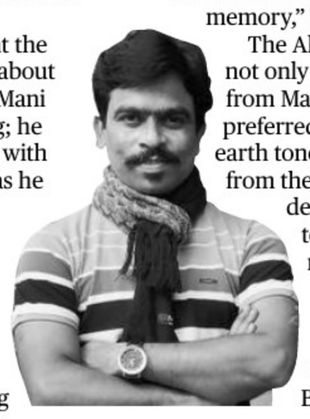
Manjunath N Wali pays tribute to the late artist JMS Mani with his solo show The Allure of Land

**Ruth Dhanaraj**
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Once upon a time, there was an empero r called Pulakeshin who ruled over a kingdom that spanned all of Karnataka and a huge swathe of Andhra Pradesh. Called the Chalukya Empire, his dynasty ushered in a golden era of civilisation, art and culture.

No wonder then, Badami, the capital of this prosperous centre has been the muse for many a creative soul. The late artist JMS Mani made the town immortal with his Badami Series that depicted the landscape and its people in their everyday glory. Now, his disciple Manjunath Wali, a watercolourist, pays homage to Mani with his solo show The Allure of Land.

"I didn't want the world to forget about Badami or JMS Mani after his passing; he immortalised it with his work. JMS (as he was popularly called) enjoyed capturing the men and women of Badami at work. In the period following his passsing in 2021, I felt the memories of Badami had gone with him too, and that nobody would do a series on the place now," says Manjunath.



"With The Allure of Land I am presenting sights of the Badami Chalukya Empire. I have long wanted to work on a Badami series of my own – it was a cherished dream even before my Hampi series, but the time was never right to execute it. Now, my main aim was to bring the focus back to Badami so everyone would remember JMS. This show is dedicated to him and his memory," he adds.

The Allure of Land is not only a departure from Manjunath's preferred palette of earth tones, but also from the usual depiction of the temple town nestled in red sand stone.

Manjunath vividly recalls his first trip to Badami in 2006 soon after the completion of his art diploma, when he was enchanted by its sweeping vistas. And like any muse, he is drawn to visit time after time.

Created from memory, emotion, and passion, Manjunath says the glorious panorama seen on the 22 canvases on display may not really exist – it is an artist's fictional depiction of a place he holds dear. "A lot of the compositions are of my own making," says the artist, though viewers can catch glimpses of Lake Agastya or the Malaprabha River in almost every painting.

With the use of blue to capture the sky, shadows and silhouette, as well as water and twilight, the artist shows how a primary colour can bloom into a magical, many-splendoured hue.

*Allure of the Land is on display at MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road till February 16. Entry free, closed on Mondays.*

# An evening with the Cholas

Give history a chance this weekend with two events scheduled at the Museum of Art & Photography

**Turn back the pages of time** Two events at MAP promise to keep art lovers and history buffs enthralled. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) in Bengaluru is set to host two events on February 9, offering visitors a deep dive into India's architectural and historical heritage.

The first event, a guided walk titled 'Eckart Muthesius and Manik Bagh – Pioneering Modernism in India', will take place at 4pm in the Axis Bank Gallery on the third floor. This walk will explore the art and architecture of the iconic Manik Bagh Palace in Indore, commissioned in 1929 by Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holkar II and Maharani Sanyogita.

Completed in 1933, Manik Bagh (which translates to Gem Garden or Ruby Garden) is celebrated as a landmark of Modernism in India, blending Bauhaus-inspired aesthetics with Indian craftsmanship.

The walk will feature rare vintage photographs by architect Eckart Muthesius, portraits by Man Ray and Emil Leitner, and lesser-known watercolour paintings and design studies by Muthesius. You can get free access to the otherwise ticketed exhibition on February 9.

Later in the evening, at 6pm, the Mazumdar-Shaw Auditorium on the first floor will host the book launch of *Lords of Earth and Sea* by historian Anirudh Kanisetti.

The book delves into the fascinating history of the Chola Empire, which emerged from the Kaveri floodplains in the ninth century CE. Known for their grand temples, maritime prowess, and cultural contributions, the Cholas left an indelible mark on South India and beyond.

Anirudh's work, supported by a MAP Academy research grant, promises to offer a nuanced perspective on the dynasty, combining historical records and inscriptions to separate fact from legend.

The author, a historian and podcast host, will discuss his research and insights into this influential era.

*Both events are free to attend but require prior registration. For more details and registration, visit map-india.org.*

## STEPOUT

### Cherish the days

Smoke House Deli unveils an immersive Valentine's experience called Lovestruck at the Deli. On from February 11 to 26, the Deli will be offering date night set-ups, indulgent food and drinks, and interactive couple experiences.

*At Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar and Lavelle Road from 9am and 12.30am. Call 41276272.*

### Pizzas aplenty

PizzaExpress has launched the all-new Naples style pizza base. Known for its airy, light texture and perfectly charred edges, this pizza base is baked at a high temperature and is available in six options: burrata, funghi, classic veg, classic chicken tikka, etna and pesto.

*Available across all PizzaExpress outlets in the city.*

### Yardstick romance

Binge on an exclusive menu called 'Drunk In Love', for Valentine's Day. The menu includes cocktails, Vietnamese pho, beetroot carpaccio, rose tres leches for dessert and more. Musician Vasu Raina will perform live on February 14.

*At The Yard from February 7 to 28, 8pm onwards. Tickets for the show on Insider.in.*

## A call for chaos

### The U.S. should push for a two-state solution, not displace an entire people

When the state of Israel was created in Palestine in 1948, more than 7,00,000 Palestinians, the land's original inhabitants, were displaced. Palestinians remember this forced mass expulsion as the Nakba (catastrophe). More Palestinians were expelled during the Six-Day War in 1967. Some moved to Gaza, others to the West Bank, while the majority fled to other countries, where they and their descendants are refugees. In successive peace talks, Israel has outrightly rejected their right to return to their homes, a fundamental right. Now, U.S. President Donald Trump wants to forcibly transfer the 2.3 million Palestinians out of Gaza, the Mediterranean enclave that has suffered relentless Israeli bombardment for 15 months. His plan involves relocating Palestinians to neighbouring Arab countries, taking over the 360 sq. km strip which he calls a "hellhole" and redeveloping it into the Riviera of the Middle East. At a press conference in Washington DC, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he also stated sending troops to Gaza "if necessary". The White House later claimed that he meant a temporary relocation of Palestinians. It also clarified that he had not committed to deploying U.S. troops but reaffirmed that his "out-of-the-box" proposal for Gaza was a serious one. However, Mr. Trump's plan has at least three fundamental problems.

First, Palestinians are not an imperial possession that Israel and the U.S. can bomb and relocate at will. They are a people with a national identity, whose collective history, present and future, is deeply tied to the Palestinian land. Despite relentless Israeli bombardment, the Palestinians of Gaza have refused to leave. Now, Mr. Trump is advocating what is essentially a call for ethnic cleansing, another Nakba. Second, Arab countries, including many of America's allies, have unequivocally rejected Mr. Trump's proposal. They understand that Palestinians who were forcefully removed never managed to return. Even authoritarian Arab rulers, regardless of their dependence on U.S. aid, must pay attention to the sentiments of their people, who overwhelmingly support Palestinian rights. Third, Mr. Trump's vision of rebuilding Gaza aligns closely with the Israeli far-right's agenda: resettling the land with Jewish settlers. This will further alienate an already desperate population and plant yet another time bomb in West Asia. Mr. Trump must abandon his calls for the ethnic cleansing and instead use America's influence to ensure a successful ceasefire in Gaza. The U.S. should be working toward a lasting, just solution – one that acknowledges Palestinian rights and upholds the principles of peace and stability in the region.

## Crippling aid work

### The fallout of U.S. foreign assistance freeze will be far-reaching

Insularity often stems from contempt, and the kind now being exhibited by U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration is no exception. Withdrawing from international commitments has become a defining feature of Mr. Trump's foreign policy, and the latest decision to freeze foreign assistance adds to the list of drastic moves, following the withdrawal from WHO and the Paris Accord. This decision will disrupt established global aid structures and have dire consequences for the millions who rely on U.S. assistance for survival. While the full impact is yet to unfold, it is clear to those in the development sector that a cascade of negative repercussions is imminent. On his first day in office, Mr. Trump imposed a 90-day freeze on foreign assistance, citing inefficiencies and ideological opposition to USAID. His administration argues that USAID misallocates funds and operates at odds with his policies. Elon Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency, went so far as to label USAID a viper's nest of radical-left Marxists who hate America. The official USAID website has been stripped of its content, but announced that all personnel would be placed on administrative leave, with only a few exceptions for mission-critical staff. The administration also ordered the rapid repatriation of overseas USAID personnel within 30 days.

USAID was established in 1961 as an independent agency under the Foreign Assistance Act, designed to provide global humanitarian and development aid. According to the U.S. government's official spending tracker (USASpending.gov), USAID was allocated $44.2 billion in the 2024 budget. While this amounts to just 0.4% of the total U.S. federal budget, media reports indicate that it accounted for nearly 42% of all humanitarian aid tracked by the UN in 2024. USAID funds a range of programmes which include health care, food aid (including assistance to Gaza), and policy advocacy. The agency has maintained a strong presence in India since the 1960s, supporting initiatives in education, immunisation, HIV/TB prevention, polio eradication, and child health. Though direct financial aid to India has declined in recent years, USAID contributions still amounted to over $150 million for the latest fiscal year. However, in many conflict-ridden regions, USAID remains a lifeline. Withdrawing from international aid efforts is more than a bureaucratic shift: it risks leaving millions without food, medical assistance and critical resources. The decision reflects an inward-looking approach that dismisses the interconnectedness of global affairs. As the U.S. retreats from its historical leadership in international development, the world will be left grappling with the consequences of this reckless policy shift.

## The primary lessons from the Reagan air crash

**Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan**

is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

The tragic mid-air collision on January 29, 2025 between a United States Army Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and an American Airlines CRJ-700 flight while it was on the final approach path to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington DC, killing 67 people, brings out several aspects of human factors that can result in a tragedy.

In this case, the first was having politicians jump the gun by blaming others, even before a formal investigation began and the bodies were yet to be recovered from the watery grave of the Potomac river. U.S. President Donald Trump was quick to blame former U.S. Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden for diluting U.S air safety standards, forgetting that it was he who held the reins in the interim four-year period.

**Pressures, opaque investigations in India**

One saw the same kind of political one-upmanship just after the air accident at Mangaluru in May 2010 when the Minister of Civil Aviation, Praful Patel, declared that the airport conformed to all standards of ICAO Annex 14, volume 1. Dutifully, the court of inquiry committee that was headed by a retired Air Marshal of the Indian Air Force, glossed over all the blatant violations of the Airports Authority of India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the airline, i.e., Air India Express, by blaming only the pilot. In all the air accident reports in India, one never gets detailed data from the digital flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder.

Unlike in India, where the truth is hidden and restrictions placed on all access to information on the accident, photographs or data on the state of infrastructure, it is open in the rest of the world where one can analyse data with vital clues that are available. There is a big lesson to be learnt from the air accident in the U.S. The radar track and the air traffic control audio tracks were openly available and one could analyse and disseminate the facts instead of having doctored data and reports that have been vetted by a bureaucrat who ensures that there is nothing incriminating against the government and its agencies is published in the final report.

Let us take what has been put out by media sources in the U.S. What is generally known is that the American Airlines flight was given a runway change by air traffic control to accommodate a departure. The change was accepted by the crew. The helicopter, PAT25 (or Priority Air Transport) had taken off from a base nearby for a Proficiency training flight at night and had been informed about the passenger flight. The air traffic controller had asked the helicopter crew whether he had the passenger flight in sight. The pilot responded by saying he was visual with the plane and he was given clearance to maintain visual and pass behind the passenger flight. This is where the human factor plays a big part. The flight was at night. Other than the navigation lights and the rotating beacon, the helicopter pilot had no other clue to make out the type of aircraft he had visual sighting with. His only information was based on the flight number.

If one looks at the radar picture available to the public and the information from the air traffic tape recording, there was another flight which was behind the American Airlines flight, but approaching the main runway that the American flight was originally approaching before the American crew accepted a side step to a different runway.

**The 'hurry syndrome'**

Did the helicopter pilot wrongly identify this second flight to be the American flight when he reported visual to air traffic control? If one looks at the radar track of this second flight and the track being followed by the helicopter to "cross behind" (as instructed by air traffic control), it is quite likely that the helicopter crew had focused on the second flight rather than the American Airlines flight and were fixated on being behind the aircraft they had perhaps misidentified. As both the helicopter and the American Airlines flight were below 1,000 feet above ground level, the collision avoidance system would not have sounded as it would have been inhibited below 1,000 ft.

In aviation parlance, this is what one calls "Press-on-itis", or the 'hurry syndrome', where once you get fixated, all other inputs cannot influence your judgement. One needs a fresh and clear mind to be able to maintain situational awareness and spatial orientation. Fatigue and stress have a major role in these situations. The initial reports indicate there was only a single air traffic tower controller at Reagan handling the flights when, normally, two controllers are on duty.

Soon after the Reagan accident, the visual media in India went on overdrive, with graphic presentations of the Charkhi Dadri mid-air collision in India, near New Delhi, on November 12, 1996. In this accident, a Kazakhstan Airlines flight from Chimkent, Kazakhstan to Delhi collided with a Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747 flight from Delhi to Dhahran, killing 349 people The pilot of the Kazakh flight was blamed for not complying with air traffic control clearance. What people are not aware of was a DGCA official who was in-charge of the investigation was removed from the investigation when he submitted his findings. It was another official who finalised the report. It is needless to say that the last nine minutes of the digital flight data recorder of the Saudia flight was a blank.

In the recent crash in South Korea, in December 2024, where a passenger flight landed with retracted wheels and crashed into an embankment housing the instrument landing system localiser antenna, South Korea, like India at the time of the Mangaluru crash, had not complied with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 14, Volume 1 Standard that mandated that all structures in operational area shall be frangible (from January 1, 2010). Yet, ICAO gave them a clean chit during the audits conducted. The Korean jet's digital flight data recorder was also blank for the last four minutes.

**Incidents in Bengaluru, Tiruchi**

Let us not forget the case of two Indigo flights, on January 7, 2022 – one bound for Kolkata, and the other for Bhubaneshwar – that were departing from parallel runways at Bengaluru airport. The air traffic controllers had cleared planes for take-off. In the two runways at Bengaluru, one runway was to be used for take-offs and the other for landings simultaneously. It was a narrow escape for both planes.

Neither the airline nor the air traffic control reported the matter but the incident came to light during a safety audit. The lack of situational awareness and the lack of knowledge of the pilots on the functioning of the collision avoidance system were safety issues that were all swept under the carpet.

On October 11, 2024, an Air India Express flight from Tiruchirappalli to Sharjah experienced hydraulic failure in one system. It circled for close to three hours before landing. But the political class in Tamil Nadu and the media went to town making a hero out of the captain who had exhibited very poor judgement when he could have made an overweight landing immediately.

This is another example of people with no knowledge of aviation passing judgements and influencing investigation agencies. The mid-air tragedy should open the eyes of the travelling public and know that safety is being compromised for brownie points.

The Reagan accident in the U.S. highlights the several factors that can result in a tragedy; there is also the danger of investigation agencies getting side-tracked

## The saga of regulating India's thermal power emissions

**Ashok Sreenivas**

is with the Prayas (Energy Group)

**Maria Chirayil**

is with the Prayas (Energy Group)

On December 30, 2024, India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued a notification amending the Environment Protection Rules by pushing back the deadline for thermal plants to comply with sulphur dioxide ($SO_2$) emission norms by three years without any reasons being given. As it happens, the existing deadline for about 20 gigawatts (GW) of thermal plants, all located in close proximity to densely populated areas, was December 31, 2024. This is the latest instance in a nearly decade-long saga that fans of Franz Kafka would find appealing.

The MoEFCC revised the emission norms for Indian thermal plants in December 2015 after public consultations, and all thermal plants were expected to comply with them by December 2017 despite it being a tight deadline.

This notification tightened the prevalent norms for particulate matter emissions and introduced norms for other emissions, including $SO_2$, for the first time. These norms were understood to be broadly on a par with existing practices in countries such as Australia, China and the United States.

**The morphing of a debate**

Indian coal generally has a lower sulphur content than other coal, which should have made it easier for Indian thermal plants to meet the $SO_2$ emission norms. But rather than focusing on the best ways to meet the norms – given Indian coal's characteristics – the debate morphed into the challenges around implementing the flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) technology for desulphurisation of high-sulphur coal. Despite the norms never mandating FGDs, the discussion became one about issues such as the scheduling of FGD installations given their long gestation periods and the likely costs of installing them.

In parallel, a different discourse questioning the $SO_2$ emission norms themselves also took shape, often driven by different arms of the government. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) published papers in 2020 and 2021, questioning the need for uniform norms across the country and proposing that its country-wide implementation be phased out till 2035. The CEA also commissioned a study from IIT Delhi in 2022 which concluded that the installation of FGDs does provide air quality benefits but argued for extending the timelines due to issues such as FGDs being expensive, their supply chain being inadequate, and their operation leading to increased coal consumption (and hence greenhouse gas emissions).

In 2024, NITI Aayog commissioned the CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute to conduct a study on this. This study concluded that $SO_2$ emission norms are not important to achieve good ambient air quality in India, and instead the focus should be on particulate emissions. There was also one strand of debate about secondary aerosol formation from $SO_2$ emissions as the reason to have norms for it even though Indian coal is relatively low sulphur. Thus, rather than debating these issues and building a consensus before notifying the first set of norms, it continues robustly nearly a decade after their notification.

**Different deadlines**

In the midst of these debates, the MoEFCC diluted some norms and also extended, multiple times, the deadlines for compliance, with the notification of December 2024 being the fourth in the series. As a result, there are different deadlines for thermal plants in different locations and for different types of emissions, with $SO_2$ emission deadlines being well after the deadline for other emissions.

Indeed, the final deadline for compliance with other emissions, which include particulate matter emissions that are considered important by all government agencies, was December 31, 2024 with many plants having to comply from December 31 of 2022 and 2023. But it is not clear if various pollution control boards are verifying adherence to even these norms as there is no public source easily available that provides this information.

**Consumer pays**

Given the evolving timelines in the various notifications by the MoEFCC, many thermal plants have already tendered contracts to install FGDs – though not at a pace required to meet their deadlines before the latest notification. This was enabled by electricity regulators introducing regulations to pass on the costs of installing FGDs and other pollution control equipment to electricity consumers, irrespective of whether emission norms are met (so that it is not a burden on thermal plants).

As a result, though the earliest deadline for meeting $SO_2$ emission norms is now December 31, 2027, 22 GW of thermal plants have already installed FGDs. Additionally, 102 GW (nearly 50% of installed thermal capacity) is in advanced stages of setting up FGDs.

Given the new timelines for compliance, the chances are that plants with FGDs will not run them since this would increase the cost of generation and hence push them down the preferred list of generators. Thus, electricity consumers are likely to be paying for installed but unused equipment, even as citizens living around thermal plants do not get the benefit of cleaner air for at least three more years, if not longer.

Perhaps this modern variant of Birbal's *khichdi* will get cooked one day, but the institutional, environmental, health and financial costs of doing so are likely to end up being high. And, unlike the original fable, it is not even clear whether the right lessons would be learnt from this saga.

Electricity consumers are likely to pay for installed but unused equipment, even as citizens living around thermal plants do not get the benefit of cleaner air

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Deportation, human rights**

I write this letter as a former Union Minister for Law and Justice. The heart-rending ordeal of Indian citizens deported to India on a U.S. military aircraft is the ultimate denunciation of American pretensions as the global defender of human rights and democracy. The reported chaining and handcuffing of helpless captives aboard the plane, completely restricting their movement and even their access to the washroom, must put to shame all those responsible for the infraction of our citizens' right to dignity and privacy The mental and physical torture of our citizens by the American authorities merits a firm and suitable response from the Indian government.

I would appeal to the External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, to take up the matter at the highest level in the U.S. administration. Clearly, protecting the dignity and the basic human rights of Indian citizens is the first charge on the resources of the Indian state.

**Ashwani Kumar,**
New Delhi

It is unfortunate that the BJP government at the Centre has not only failed to condemn the inhuman treatment meted out to the Indians deported by the American government but has also gone on to defend the act. It was audacious that the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated casually in the Rajya Sabha yesterday that it is the practice of the American government — 'the Standard Operating Procedure provides for the use of restraints'. One also wonders why the Prime Minister has maintained a pronounced silence. Does it mean that he considers his friendship with Mr. Trump to be more important than the basic rights of Indians?

**Tharcius S. Fernando,**
Chennai

**Trump and Gaza plan**

The United States President, Donald Trump, is setting a dangerous precedent by proposing a plan to take over the Gaza strip, as reported in *The Hindu* (February 6). Israel, with support from the U.S., demolished Gaza and has rendered millions of Palestinians homeless. Now, Mr. Trump is proposing to make them landless also. While he is after illegal immigrants in the U.S., on what grounds is he asking West Asian countries to have Palestinians displaced by his own ally?

**V. Ganapathy Subramanian,**
Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

Besides setting a dangerous precedent for international relations, Mr. Trump's proposal will upset the rules-based international order. A megalomaniac cannot ride roughshod over the rules-based system the civilised international community has in place.

**Kurian Mathew,**
Kochi, Kerala

**Corrections & Clarifications**

In a front page report, "60% polling recorded in crucial election in Delhi" (February 6, 2025), the Chief Justice of India's name was erroneously mentioned as Sanjeev Kumar instead of Sanjiv Khanna.

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

# Should India build a sovereign, foundational AI model?

**Pranesh Prakash**

co-founded the Centre for Internet and Society, and is currently an Associate Fellow at the Yale Law School Information Society Project

**Tanuj Bhojwani**

was until recently the head of People + AI, and has worked extensively on IndiaStack projects like UPI and Aadhaar as a part of iSPIRT

PARLEY

In 2023, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman's remarks in India on the cost of training foundational AI models – like the ones that power ChatGPT – sparked a debate on whether Indian firms should spend millions of dollars on the aim of that technology. The issue pits sovereignty and national pride against financial constraints. Is it necessary for sovereignty and business reasons for India to work towards a foundational model, as the IT Ministry's IndiaAI Mission has announced it will? Pranesh Prakash and Tanuj Bhojwani discuss the question in a discussion moderated by **Aroon Deep.** Edited excerpts:

**Does India need to build a sovereign foundational AI model for its local needs?**

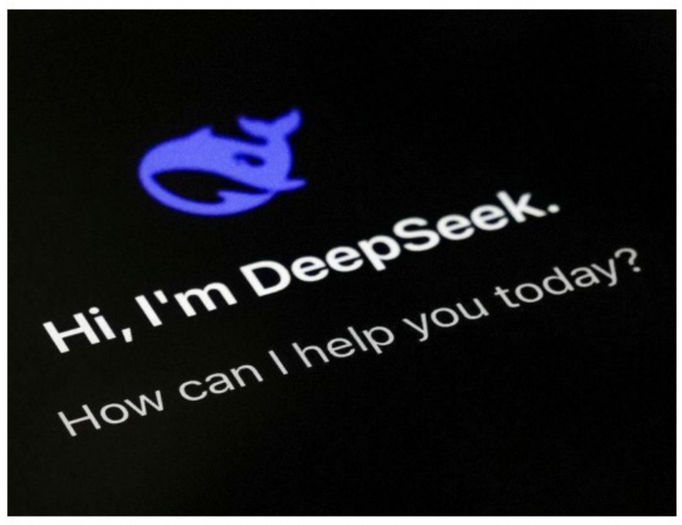
**Pranesh Prakash:** I believe that India should be working on foundation models, but not for the purpose of sovereignty. It is important to have people who are able to build foundation models and also to have people who can build on top of foundation models to deploy and build applications. We need to have people in India who are able to apply themselves to every part of building AI.

Sovereignty is something that we should be concerned about from the perspective of things such as sanctions, which we have seen the U.S. apply over specific kinds of chips, especially those that are used for training AI models, and export controls over things like software or models. Those may be coming down the road.

But I do not think you need to be worried about that. As things stand, what we have are not just proprietary models which are closed, under licence, and cannot legally be used without the permission of the person who created that model. We also have a lot of open weights models and a few open source models, such as DeepSeek R1. And because we have these, for which you do not need permission and can deploy locally, we do not need to approach these from the perspective of national security and sovereignty and concerned about sanctions, and so on.

If there are sanctions tomorrow which are applied to the usage of any models produced in the U.S., Indians can just "fork" the code of many of the existing open source models, refashion those, and build on top of them.

As long as these models exist, are state-of-the-art, and are competing well against proprietary models – and I believe we will soon come to a point where they will out-compete proprietary models – we do not need to be concerned about this from the perspective of sovereignty.




The DeepSeek page is seen on a smartphone. AP

**Tanuj Bhojwani:** I would say that for sovereignty we should do this, but if they really wanted to block you, they would start with chips, as Mr. Pranesh pointed out. Even if you had your own model, you need Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) to run it. DeepSeek uses Huawei's [Ascend HiSilicon] 910C chips – India cannot even put that up. We have no contract with manufacturers such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited (TSMC) to produce chips of even a previous generation.

More than sovereignty, there is an element of pride here; we are ambitious people, and want our own model. We have done this in other areas; we have reached beyond, in GDP per capita terms, what our *aukat* (station) would be. Infosys co-founder Nandan [Nilekani]'s point and my point is this: do this if you see returns. Do this if anybody sees the returns on it, whether the pride is the return for the investment, make sure the investment is proportionate to that end.

**Does the emergence of DeepSeek at low cost make this more attainable? Is it worth the expense?**

**TB:** Even with DeepSeek, this remains a game of a few hundreds of millions of dollars. DeepSeek V3's training run cost $5.6 million. But in cutting-edge research, there are a lot of failed attempts at that goal. So we are still talking about hundreds of millions of dollars in investments. Even if you produce a foundational model in India, there is still a lot to do – paying salaries and so on – before you can make money back on that investment.

The market is still majority U.S.-dominated. About 60% of the market cap of the entire globe is in the U.S. Even today, business-to-business

> We should acknowledge that we have limited resources, and then we should think about what is the wisest way to spend them. Competing with a [ChatGPT] o3 or [DeepSeek] R1 may not be the best idea with the absolute quantum of resources we are talking about
>
> **TANUJ BHOJWANI**

software-as-a-service founders in India are largely selling to the U.S. If we believe we will make an Indian model with local language content, you are capping yourself on the knee because the overall Indian enterprise market that will purchase AI is much smaller.

Spending $200 a month to replace a human worker may be possible in the U.S., but in India, that is what the human worker is being paid in the first place.

To succeed here anyway, the government needs to create an institute that has autonomy and spending power. 90% of the spending will go to failed experiments. Our public procurement system is not geared for that kind of error tolerance.

**PP:** There is a lot we can do even in terms of software, in which India has been seen as a success. We need more focus on what is built on top of models – how we commercialise the AI models that are already in use. The enthusiasm among young developers is very much there, even if they are not always well-versed. Students nowadays in their first year are learning how to use six different development tools right from the very beginning.

We should also promote innovation based on constraints, as Alibaba and DeepSeek have shown.

**TB:** I think the real question to ask is not whether we should undertake the Herculean effort of building one foundational model, but to ask what are the investments we should be making such that the research environment, the innovation, private market investors, etc., all come together and orchestrate in a way to produce – somewhere out of a lab or out of a private player – a foundational large language model (LLM). The real questions we are not paying attention to are: Why does it not happen? What is wrong with our research? What is wrong with our R&D investments, the spending both by the private market and government?

**The IndiaAI Mission under the IT Ministry has announced that it is making GPU clusters available to startups and academia at subsidised rates. What is your take on this announcement and on government AI policy in general as an impetus to investment?**

**PP:** The capital expenditure is a good sign. I think the government should look at other ways of promoting the responsible usage of these technologies, including amongst them doing careful studies of what kinds of regulations ought to be put and, very importantly, what kinds of regulations ought not to be put.

**TB:** This does bring down the cost of renting a GPU significantly downwards, but even then somewhere in all of this are the margins that we are paying to data centre operators, providers, etc., to do these things. It is my understanding that both DeepSeek and, of course, all the large labs definitely have dedicated contracts wherein they are buying, installing the GPUs and using them completely by themselves for training runs.

Even with its low training run bills, DeepSeek has over a critical threshold of captive GPUs – they are known to have at least one cluster of Nvidia H-100s, and a calculation doing the rounds puts their investments at $1.3 billion. The Big Tech firms are investing $80 billion a year on infrastructure.

We have resource constraints here; the budget for this is less than the cost of training Meta's Llama 4 model, and that budget then has to be spread out equitably and fairly among the whole country. The government is not taking that concentrated bet. We are taking very sparse resources that we have and we are further thinning it out.

The subsidy is still a very good thing if people are using it for the right purposes. AI for Bharat is trying to train IndicTrans2, and a text-to-speech system for Indian languages. And those are critical things we need, and you can get away with, say, 500 or 1000 GPUs for that task, and you can get very good results compared to the state-of-the-art. So I think that is really the message that we should acknowledge that we have limited resources, and then we should think about what is the wisest way to spend them. Competing with a [ChatGPT] o3 or [DeepSeek] R1 may not be the best idea with the absolute quantum of resources we are talking about.

To listen to the full interview
**Scan the code or go to the link**
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

# What community mental health could mean for journalists

Journalists try and balance truth with sensitivity, ensuring stories are accurate, while considering their impact on readers and communities

**Sunalini Mathew**

Last week the NWMI (Network of Women in Media, India) held its annual meeting, which 189 women from across the country travelled to Guwahati to attend. One of the sessions was on navigating mental health. Pushpa Rokde, who works with the Hindi daily, *Prakhar Samachar*, was a panelist.

Pushpa reports from Bijapur, in Bastar, a left-wing-extremist-hit area in Chhattisgarh, part of the red corridor in India. Last month, a journalist from the area, Mukesh Chandrakar, who ran a YouTube channel, was killed, allegedly for exposing corruption in a road construction business.

I imagined Pushpa would talk about the challenges she suffers reporting from a Maoist-affected area. Instead, she said, "We need to consider what impact our story will have on the reader. How will it affect the community we are writing about?"

*The Hindu* has mental-health guidelines, so we use language carefully: For instance, we treat suicide as an outcome of many different factors and do not refer to an attempt as a crime ('committed suicide'). Nor will we ever have a headline that screams that a child took their life after a fight with their mother.

But Pushpa's talk went beyond the framing of guidelines, which is important of course because it is one small way of helping to change society's narrative around mental illness as some personal failing or 'mental weakness'.

"Why are we doing the story?" she asks us to consider. Caught up in the 'routine' filing of stories, we do not usually pause to ask this question. Or, something terrible has happened and we are so focused on getting various elements of the story out, that we may not have time to think about the 'why'.

Journalists do stories for many reasons. But as the book *The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect*, tells us, journalism's first obligation is to the truth.

Telling the truth while being mindful of its impact on readers and the communities we write about requires a balance. We must accurately depict events while avoiding over-the-top details. After all, a child of a family caught in a fire may someday read about how their parent died – we would not want to add to their sense of loss now or trauma even a decade later. This balancing act is usually taken care of at the editing table.

As an editor, I have an internal dialogue with myself: 'What if this happened to me, and my child had to read about it – what parts would I not want him to read?' Or, 'Do I want my community to be referred to as 'marginalised' – how would that make me feel about my situation?'

At an in-house workshop last year, where we delved into a long-form story on the Hathras stampede that took place in July 2024, the team attending said there were too many disturbing details of injuries a minor had suffered. They did not think it was necessary and felt we should have cut out certain graphic details at the editing stage. These internal checks and balances keep us on our toes, and we are now doubly conscious of carrying a trigger warning on any story that has violence or destruction.

Last week, I attended a workshop by Tanmoy Goswami, who runs the "independent mental health storytelling platform" *Sanity*. Tanmoy, a journalist, who writes from a lived experience lens, said one of the big themes of 2025 would be community mental health, which he calls "human touch at scale".

The media reaches crores of people. By asking ourselves a few questions, we can bring in this human touch. Questions like: How do we frame the narrative so that people are disturbed enough to seek answers, but not triggered into a freeze? But also, as Pushpa says: "If there has been an incident between Naxals and the police, we must speak to both sides, but also to the villagers caught in the crossfire, so every voice is heard."

*sunalini.mathew@thehindu.co.in*

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

## A flight of fate

A C-17 wide-bodied aircraft of the U.S. Air Force, carrying around 100 Indian migrants deported from the U.S., lands at the Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport in Amritsar on February 5. AFP

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** FEBRUARY 7, 1975

## President's call for wise use of wood resources

New Delhi, Feb. 6: The President, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to-day called upon the rich and poor nations alike to pool their resources, experiences and talents to evolve a strategy for wise use of the world's wood resources. Mr. Ahmed was inaugurating here the third world consultation on wood-based panels, sponsored by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in collaboration with the Government of India. Over 500 delegates from India and abroad, comprising scientists, technologists, administrators and industrialists, are attending the consultation, the first one to be held outside the developed world.

Mr. Ahmed said a unique merit of wood panel was that it was both a poor man's mainstay and a rich man's luxury. For a poor man, panel products constituted low-cost building material. To a rich man, they furnished attractive and costly material to satisfy his vanity.

He said panel products were an exception to the general phenomenon that a high rate of consumption would exhaust natural resources in course of time. Timber was a renewable resource which improved, if wisely used.

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** FEBRUARY 7, 1925

## Tagore's "letters from abroad"

London, Feb. 6: Wishing that the collection of Tagore's letters written during the Americo-European tour to Mr. Andrews, published in Madras, will be more accessible to the British public, *Manchester Guardian*, in a leader, expresses the opinion that apart from the charming style, they express generous and broad humanity full of insight into the underlying difficulty of Anglo-Indian relations that they fully deserve the consideration of statesman and the educated classes. Tagore pleads for mutual Anglo-Indian understanding.

## From Page One

## Centre plays down U.S. handling of deportees

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, his counterpart in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K. C. Venugopal, and Left MPs were among those who participated in the protest. Some of the MPs protested with their hands in chains.

"Prime Minister, listen to this man's pain. Indians deserve Dignity and Humanity, NOT Handcuffs," Mr. Gandhi said in a post on X, while sharing a video of a deportee narrating his ordeal.

"We, the INDIA parties, shall not tolerate the humiliation of Indian nationals," Mr. Kharge said, adding, "...why did we not send our own planes to bring back the Indians with dignity and respect, instead of a military plane landing on our soil?"

The External Affairs Minister said the deportations were executed by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authorities, and "the standard operating procedure for deportations by aircraft used by the ICE, effective from 2012, provides for the use of restraints". "There has been no change from the past procedure for the flight undertaken by the U.S. on February 5. We are, of course, engaging with the U.S. government to ensure that the deportees are not mistreated during the flight," Mr. Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha.

The Minister said the ICE informed the Indian government that women and children were not restrained. The needs of deportees during transit related to food and other necessities, including possible medical emergencies, were attended to, he added.

## What was 'gross' about 12 pending Bills, asks SC

The State government, represented by senior advocates Rakesh Dwivedi, Mukul Rohatgi, A.M. Singhvi and P. Wilson, argued the Governor's conduct was that of a political opponent. Once the Bills were re-passed, Governor Ravi had no option but to give consent. Here, the Governor had countermanded the will of the people expressed through their elected representatives.

Mr. Venkataramani said the State, through its submissions, was portraying the Governor as an "insignificant" authority occupying a "small place" in a constitutional democracy.

Mr. Venkataramani argued the Governor had only expressed his wish to withhold consent. The top law officer said the Governor found the Bills contained provisions giving the State government more powers, both as an authority over university appointments and over the Vice-Chancellors. Higher education was a subject in the Concurrent List.

Justice Pardiwala said the Governor's submissions "did not make any sense". "You [Governor] are saying 'I withhold consent', but at the same time, I will not ask them to reconsider the Bills. This would only frustrate the procedure under Article 200... The Governor seems to have adopted his own procedure here," Justice Pardiwala addressed the A-G.

The next hearing is scheduled for February 7.

## Cong. practises politics of appeasement: Modi

"I can never forget the Emergency... The word Constitution does not suit them..." he said.

Mr. Modi also hit out at the economic policies of the Congress government and the 'licence quota raj' gave rise to corruption and affected the country's economic progress and growth.

The Prime Minister said the Congress' priority was "family first" and its policies had been focused around it.

He said his government worked for the upliftment of the poor, and it stood with the middle class and the "neo-middle class" in the country.

"Nation first is the BJP's priority," he said.

## Yunus planned to kill me, says Sheikh Hasina

Dhaka's concerns were conveyed to Pawan Badhe, who is currently serving as the Head of Mission in the High Commission of India in Dhaka.

"Through the protest note, handed over to the Acting High Commissioner of India in Dhaka, the Ministry conveyed the deep concern, disappointment and serious reservation of the Government of Bangladesh, as such statements are hurting the sentiments of the people in Bangladesh," said the MOFA, Bangladesh in a press note.

It was on Wednesday that a mob called for demolishing the 32 Dhanmondi residence of Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The crowd then started dismantling the building using heavy earth-moving machinery despite police presence.

In a statement, the Awami League accused the interim government of providing "immunity" and said, "Dr. Yunus and the government cannot escape liability for last night's destructive acts."

"The house was burnt in August but now they are breaking this house," said Ms. Hasina.

The External Affairs Ministry termed the demolition regrettable.

# Civilian dead after alleged 'police torture' in Jammu

He was detained over false charges and forced into confession, says Mehbooba Mufti; another man was shot dead by the Army in Kashmir after allegedly speeding away from a checkpoint

**Peerzada Ashiq**
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

A civilian was shot dead by the Army in north Kashmir's Baramulla after he allegedly sped away from a checkpoint on Thursday. In Jammu's Kathua, another civilian was found dead after allegedly facing torture in police custody.

An official identified the victim in the Baramulla incident as Waseem Ahmad Mir of Sopore.

The Army, in a statement, said, "On February 5, 2025, based on a specific intelligence input about the movement of terrorists, a mobile vehicle check post was established by security forces. One speeding suspicious civil truck was spotted. When challenged, the truck didn't stop despite repeated warnings instead accelerated further while crossing the check post."

**On duty:** Jammu and Kashmir Police and BSF check a car during a search operation, in Samba on Wednesday. ANI

The Army said troops pursued the vehicle for over 23 km. "Shots were fired aiming on tyres which forced the vehicle to halt. After to a detailed search, the injured driver was immediately evacuated to Government Medical College, Baramulla, where he was declared dead."

The J&K police said it has lodged an FIR at the Baramulla police station. The police urged the public to maintain peace and refrain from spreading misinformation regarding this incident.

In Kathua, a civilian, who was allegedly tortured in police custody, was found dead on Thursday. According to the local people, Makhan Din, 25, from Billawar, was beaten up and mentally tortured in police custody over having links with militants.

They said he had even made a video inside a mosque where he swore that he had never seen a militant in the area.

Former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, in a post on X, said Din was detained by the SHO of Billawar on false charges of being an overground worker (OGW).

"He was reportedly subjected to brutal thrashing and torture, forced into a confession, and tragically found dead today. The area has been sealed off, and internet services have been cut, leading to widespread panic. There's an ongoing crackdown, with more individuals being picked up. This incident appears to follow a troubling pattern of targeting innocent youths on fabricated charges. I urge the Director General of Police to initiate an immediate investigation," she said.

# New website for CSE prelims registration has errors: applicants

**Vijaita Singh**
**Maitri Porecha**
NEW DELHI

Spelling mistakes and failure to generate one-time passwords are among several glitches reported by applicants applying online for the civil services preliminary examination to be conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in May.

Months after the alleged scam by sacked IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, who forged documents to clear the exams, the UPSC introduced changes.

These updates now require applicants to submit documents, including educational, caste and physical disability certificates, at the stage of the preliminary examination, unlike in previous years, when these documents were only uploaded after a candidate qualified for the Mains examination.

In a first, all candidates have to fill a one time registration (OTR) form followed by a detailed application form, where they have to fill the service and cadre preference.

**Spelling mistakes**

Aspirants took to social media to state that the online form spelled university as "Universtiy" and characters as "charachers", and had grammatical errors. The page to upload photograph and signature also had glitches, applicants said.

Sources in the government told *The Hindu* that the administration was aware of the issues being faced by candidates, and the UPSC had published a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page.

The information sought at different stages of the examination has been clubbed this time, and candidates have to furnish all details at the registration stage, sources added.

Candidates complained that emails and calls to the UPSC's helpline remained unanswered.

# ₹10,147-crore worth contracts signed for Pinaka ammunition

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**A contract for upgrades in Shakti software has also been signed with Bharat Electronics Limited**

The Defence Ministry on Thursday signed contracts worth ₹10,147 crore for a variety of ammunition for the Army's Pinaka Multiple Rocket Launch Systems (MRLS). The ammunition also enhances the range of the Pinaka systems.

Contracts were inked with Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL) for the procurement of Area Denial Munition (ADM) Type-1 and High Explosive Pre-Fragmented (HEPF)-Mk-1 (enhanced) rockets respectively for Pinaka MRLS at a total cost of ₹10,147 crore, a Ministry statement said.

A contract for upgrades in Shakti software has also been signed with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

The ADM Type-1 ammunition has a specialised warhead to deliver a quantum of sub-munitions over a larger area targeting mechanised forces, vehicles and personnel, thereby denying specific areas to the enemy, the statement said.

The upgraded Pinaka is going to be the mainstay of the Army's long range rocket artillery.

Last November, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced the successful completion of flight tests of guided Pinaka rockets of 75 km paving the way for its induction doubling the original range. Work is on to enhance the range to 120 km and further to 300 km.

The fully automated 214-mm Pinaka MRLS battery can deliver a salvo of 72 rockets on the target up to 75 km in 44 seconds.

# Opposition parties must speak up for Modi critics, says Kshama Sawant

**Kunal Shankar**
CHENNAI

Kshama Sawant, an Indian-American politician and a critic of India's Hindu Right, has "urged" the country's political Opposition to speak up for critics like her, saying it is in their interest to do so.

In a virtual interview to *The Hindu*, Ms. Sawant referred to the "complete inability of the political opposition to put forward a unified agenda for the working people, not just in India, but globally. And this is what has led to the election of [Donald] Trump [in the U.S.] and [Narendra] Modi [in India]."

"I would urge India's political opposition to speak up for those like me, Ashok Swain, Avani Dias, and other Modi critics being denied a visa," said Ms. Sawant, whose visa application to visit her ailing mother in Bengaluru, was denied twice last year. She said that the Opposition

Indian-American politician Kshama Sawant says there is political retaliation against critics like her. REUTERS

parties should come together to state that they would not support "an inhumane agenda where Indian citizens, like my mother, are not allowed to meet their own families".

"We have not had such an outcry from the political opposition," Ms. Sawant, a former City Council Member of Seattle, said.

Ashok Swain is a Sweden-based professor of Indian origin, whose Overseas Citizenship of India was revoked in July 2023 for "indulging in activities inimical to the sovereignty and integrity of India". Avani Dias is the former South Asia Bureau Chief of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, who left India in April 2024, citing a denial of visa extension for her reporting on the run-up to the General Election in India, a statement that has been contested by the Modi government.

"We must remember that this is happening at a time when the Trump administration has been passing extreme anti-immigrant executive orders. This was evident from the 104 Indians without proper documents being shackled and sent back on a U.S. military plane. We must remember that Trump rode to power with promises of mass deportation like these and letting loose a whole series of workplace raids. So, there's a chill, but there's an utter failure on the part of the Democratic party on speaking up against these measures. And it's a similar case in India," Ms. Sawant said.

Ms. Sawant said she is exploring a legal challenge to her visa denial, but hasn't begun the process yet.

Blaming liberal politicians in the U.S. and in India for the Right wing tilt in both countries, Ms. Sawant said, "it is in their interest to win ordinary people back."

"There is no viable opposition," Ms. Sawant said, "the only way out is an independent working-class movement."

## SEBI fraud case: court summons ED director

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court summoned Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Rahul Navin over the Central agency's failure to supply legible copies of documents to the accused in a ₹88-crore fraud case related to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Special Judge Aparna Swami of Patiala House Court ordered the Director of the ED and investigating officer (IO) of the case to appear before the court and give in writing information on the status of the documents to be provided to the accused.

During the hearing, the accused submitted in the court that they were unable to defend themselves properly in the absence of the documents as they are essential for the trial.

The next hearing will take place on March 26.

# IAF's Mirage 2000 crashes near Gwalior after system malfunction; pilots safe

**The Hindu Bureau**
BHOPAL

An Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft, a twin-seater Mirage 2000, crashed on Thursday in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh after a system malfunction. Both pilots safely ejected before the accident, authorities said.

The IAF said the fighter plane was out on a routine sortie and crashed after encountering a system malfunction.

The IAF said in a post on X that an inquiry had been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident.

The plane crashed around 2.30 p.m. near Sunari village in the Karera police station limits, according to the local police.

Shivpuri Superintendent of Police (SP) Aman Singh Rathore told *The Hindu* that the plane had taken off from the Gwalior airbase and crashed near Karera town. The authorities were alerted by the local people who spotted the plane in a field, he added.

**In flames:** The Mirage 2000 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Shivpuri during a routine training sortie, in Gwalior on Thursday. ANI

Mr. Rathore said the two pilots had safely ejected from the plane before the crash and received minor injuries. A team of IAF officials arrived in Shivpuri on a helicopter and airlifted the pilots back to the base, he added.

Additional SP Sanjeev Mule told reporters that no local person suffered injuries in the incident. "Local police, an ambulance, and a fire tender reached the spot immediately," he said.

Videos from the crash site surfaced on the Internet showing the aircraft in pieces and flames.

The IAF operates three squadrons of the Mirage 2000 fighters, manufactured by Dassault Aviation of France, which have since been upgraded, and are based at Gwalior.

# HC to 'supervise' framing of charges in R.G. Kar graft case

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday said it would "strictly supervise" proceedings before the special court of the Central Bureau of Investigation at Alipore concerning the framing of charges in the case of alleged financial irregularities at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Sandip Ghosh, former principal of the hospital, charged with allegations of corruption at the institution, and other accused had moved a Division Bench of the High Court.

In his appeal, Mr. Ghosh alleged that the CBI did not leave them enough time to peruse the documents for a response. The High Court said due process of law must be adhered to, and as such, the accused need to be given sufficient time before the charges were framed in the case.

**APPEAL**

**Master Kedar,** MRN No.10020001674297, 4 years old son of Basavaraj, admitted Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center, Bangalore is diagnosed with BETA Thalassemia Major. The only curative treatment is Bone Marrow Transplant. Fortunately he has complete HLA matched sibling donor and can be stem cell donor for the patient. The estimated expenses for the treatment is **Rs. 21,50,000/-**.

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Kedar. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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# Opposition attacks govt. over 'inhumane' deportation by U.S.

Opposition parties say Indians are migrating in search of better opportunities because of a 'failing economy'; they ask why govt. did not send its own aircraft to bring back Indians, demand steps to track down agents who sent them to the U.S.

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge hold a protest outside Parliament on the issue of deportation on Thursday. ANI

The Opposition cornered the government on Thursday, both inside and outside Parliament, on the issue of deportation of 104 Indian migrants from the U.S. Citing the warm personal relationship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, and the BJP's claim of making India the *Vishwaguru* (world leader), they questioned why migrants were "deported in shackles" on Wednesday.

The Opposition also said the struggling Indian economy was driving people out of the country, and they had put their trust in unreliable agents out of desperation. The Lok Sabha was adjourned four times amid sloganeering as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar delivered his statement.

As the Lower House got adjourned barely 10 minutes after it took up Question Hour, Opposition MPs staged protests outside the Parliament building.

"It was said that President Trump and Prime Minister Modi are very good friends. Why did Mr. Modi let this happen? Couldn't we have sent our own aircraft to bring them back? Is this how humans are treated? That they are sent back handcuffed and shackled?" Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav added, "Those who were showing the dream of making India *Vishwaguru*, why are they silent now? Indian citizens are deported to India handcuffed like slaves and in inhumane conditions. What is the External Affairs Ministry doing?"

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal said the entire episode threw light on the desperation and helplessness of the people caused by economic hardship.

In the Rajya Sabha, Opposition members were offered the opportunity to ask questions after Mr. Jaishankar's statement. Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, the Trinamool Congress's Saket Gokhale, John Brittas of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and the Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, citing the example of Colombia which had sent an airplane to bring back its deportees, asked why India did not do the same.

Mr. Brittas said that military aircraft were rarely used for deportations, and asked why was it done in India's case. "These deportees are among the people who ran away from India, which is a failing economy, looking for better opportunity," Mr. Gokhale said.

SP leader Ramgopal Yadav asked the government whether it knew that the deportees had left behind their property and other belongings. "Will the government help them bring it back too," he asked.

The Nationalist Congress Party (SP)'s Fauzia Khan asked if the visas of Indian students who participated in anti-Israel protests at universities will be canceled. The AIADMK's M. Thambidurai asked if the action against Indian deportees was influenced by the fact that Kamala Harris, who is of Tamil heritage, fought against Mr. Trump in the election. CPI leader P. Sandosh Kumar said that in many households, the legal status of the family members may vary. "Do we have information on how many such Indian families are there," he asked. The members demanded that the government take every possible step to track down the agents who sent these deportees to the U.S. and the route they took.

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau in a statement here called the deportation "deplorable and unacceptable". "The Modi government has shown a craven attitude by not objecting to such treatment of its citizens. Since more batches of Indians are expected to be deported, the government should ensure that they are treated in a humane and dignified manner," the party said.

The CPI condemned the inhumane and undignified manner in which the U.S. administration deported Indian citizens. The government must immediately and firmly raise this issue with the U.S. authorities, CPI general secretary D. Raja said.

Former Union Minister for Law and Justice Ashwani Kumar said the ordeal Indian citizens were subjected to while being deported was the ultimate denunciation of American pretensions as the global defender of human rights and democracy.

# 'Women, children were handcuffed; deportees had their feet tied with ropes'

**Alisha Dutta**
**Abhinay Lakshman**
NEW DELHI/KAITHAL

Deportee Omi Devi's brother Rajesh Kumar shows a photograph of his sister at Kheri village in Kaithal, Haryana. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Hands cuffed, feet tied with ropes, and face covered with a mask, Robin Handa, 18, arrived in Amritsar on Wednesday, days after the United States Border Security Police arrested him from the U.S.-Mexico border on January 22.

He was among the 104 Indians who were deported from the U.S. and brought back to India by an American military aircraft on Wednesday, following U.S. President Donald Trump's hardline stance on illegal immigration.

Along with him were 19 women and 13 minors, including a four-year-old boy, all of whom were handcuffed and had their feet tied with rope for 36 to 40 hours, recalled many of the deportees who spoke to *The Hindu* as they reached their hometowns on Thursday.

A motor electrician's son, Mr. Handa's father took a loan of ₹30 lakh to send his son to the United States, after he completed a course in computer science from the Industrial Training Institute in Ambala. "My father put together his savings of over ₹15 lakh from selling land and loaned ₹30 lakh to pay an agent who promised to send me to the U.S. via the U.K., only for me to be chained like an animal and brought back to the country," Mr. Handa said.

He added that he had made the "expensive" journey all the way to the U.S. only after he realised that there were no jobs for him in his hometown nor any prospect of making a decent living.

"My agent instructed me to board a flight to Ghana from Mumbai on July 24, and then unlike what he promised, I was taken to Brazil via road. I had to cross seas, wade through rivers, and traverse the Amazon jungles to reach Peru, and then Ecuador and Colombia, and from there to the U.S.-Mexico border, from where I was arrested on January 22," Mr. Handa said, adding that it took him nearly six months to reach the U.S.

Like Mr. Handa, 45-year-old Omi Devi, her husband and their two teenagers, had decided to take the 'donkey route' to get to the U.S. "Omi's eldest daughter is already studying in California. The kids were dreaming about starting their lives there and the family thought it would be best to earn some dollars and come back to India," Rajesh Kumar, Ms. Devi's brother, told *The Hindu*, hours after he met them at their Kurukshetra home.

Ms. Devi's husband Paramjeet, the primary breadwinner of the family, had been relying on farming as a livelihood.

Ms. Devi and her family travelled for a month via Italy, France, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and finally Mexico. "We crossed into the U.S. near Tijuana on January 23, and within hours were caught by men in uniform who did not appear to be the police," she told her brother.

For 10 days, they were kept in a camp with 6x6 ft cabins for each person to sleep.

# No word from govt. on U.S. cancelling Chabahar waiver

**Suhasini Haidar**
NEW DELHI

A view of the Shahid Beheshti Terminal in Chabahar port, Iran with cargo ships. GETTY IMAGES

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump signed an order that could impose sanctions on India for its investment in Iran's Chabahar port, the Union government on Thursday remained silent regarding the order and its implications.

The U.S. order, titled the 'National Security Presidential Memorandum', specifically named the port as it called for "maximum economic pressure" on the Iranian government, directing U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to cut off Iran's recourse to all funds, including through oil exports, ports, and ancillary businesses.

Mr. Trump told reporters that he has left directions that in case of his assassination, Iran should be "totally obliterated" if it is found responsible.

**Sanctions waivers**

"The Secretary of State shall modify or rescind sanctions waivers, particularly those that provide Iran any degree of economic or financial relief, including those related to Iran's Chabahar port project," says the order. India has developed the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at the Chabahar port under a 2016 trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan.

"The Treasury Secretary will also issue guidance for all relevant business sectors - including shipping, insurance, and port operators - about the risks to any person that knowingly violates U.S. sanctions with respect to Iran or an Iranian terror proxy," added a fact-sheet on the order, also issued by the White House.

**New lobbying effort**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declined to respond to requests for a comment on the U.S.'s latest threat, that came even as the U.S. deported a military plane-load of illegal Indian immigrants back to India. The Chabahar issue is expected to be discussed when Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to Washington to meet with Mr. Trump between February 12 and 14. Officials said that the Trump order required a full study by New Delhi, as well as discussions on how best to lobby with the new U.S. administration for another waiver.

During his previous tenure, Mr. Trump had walked out of the Iran nuclear deal (officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA) and imposed a number of sanctions on Iran, but granted India a waiver from sanctions over the development of Chabahar in "support of Afghanistan's economic growth and development, as well as [the U.S.'s] close partnership with India".

India acceded to Mr. Trump's demand that it "zero out" all oil exports from Iran, causing a considerable loss to Indian refineries.

# U.S. doubles down on deportations amid outrage over shackled Indian immigrants returned on military plane

**Suhasini Haidar**
NEW DELHI

Amid outrage in India over the treatment of Indian deportees, the U.S. has doubled down on its decision to fly the alleged illegal immigrants shackled and handcuffed aboard a U.S. military C-17 plane.

This is the first time a military plane has been used for such a flight, according to officials, and its use had been expressly ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Asked about the reason for the unusually harsh transport methods, which caused a furore in Parliament, U.S. Embassy spokesperson Chris Elms said here on Thursday that the U.S. considered the move "critically important".

"I can share that enforcing our nation's immigration laws is critically important to the national security and public safety of the United States. It is the policy of the United States to faithfully execute the immigration laws against all inadmissible and removable aliens," Mr. Elms said. On Wednesday, he said that the actions had sent a "clear message: illegal migration is not worth the risk".

**Cuffed and chained**

The tough statements indicate that the U.S. decision to use military planes for deportations is deliberate. Apart from India, the U.S. military's C-17s and C-130s have been used for a number of countries including Guatemala, Peru, Honduras and Ecuador as well as Colombia, whose President Gustavo Pedro objected to the use of the "undignified" manner of transport.

In a video he released online, U.S. Border Patrol chief Michael W. Banks showed how the Indian deportees were lined up for the flight, with legs in chains and wrists held in cuffs.

The police escort the deportees in masks who were brought back from the U.S., at the Ahmedabad airport on Thursday. AP

They entered the military transport plane with its rows and rows of seats crammed together for the longest such deportation flight thus far by a U.S. military aircraft.

The 24-second video showed masked security personnel overseeing boarding. The video was set to loud and seemingly ominous music.

"US Border Patrol and partners successfully returned illegal aliens to India, marking the farthest deportation flight yet using military transport," Mr. Banks posted on social media along with the video. "This mission underscores our commitment to enforcing immigration laws and ensuring swift removals. If you cross illegally, you will be removed," he added.

**Military support**

Asked about the reason for the use of military aircraft, which is considerably more expensive than chartered aircraft or commercial flights, the spokesperson said the U.S. military was "supporting the administration's efforts to expedite the removal of illegal migrants globally".

Shortly after he was sworn in on January 20, Mr. Trump signed a number of executive orders, including one declaring a national emergency on the border.

Speaking to Republican members of the U.S. Congress, he said the U.S. was deporting aliens on military aircraft "for the first time in history", and that as a result "America was being respected again".

**More deportations**

According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) website, its arm, the Immigration Air Operations (IAO), is mandated to conduct the transfer and removal of detained immigrants via "charter and commercial air transportation".

It also operates "Special High-Risk Charter flights" to repatriate aliens who may be security risks, using its inventory of 12 aircraft in the border States of Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, and Florida, says the site, which makes no mention of military support for its operations.

According to the latest ICE figures, there are 24,974 Indian nationals currently detained by ICE on criminal charges and immigration law violations for eventual deportation, while an estimated 7,25,000 Indians are undocumented in the U.S., the largest such community, after those from Mexico and El Salvador.

Officials did not respond to questions about when the next deportation flights to India had been scheduled.

# Congress to hold protests across the country today over deportation issue

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Questioning the use of a military plane to deport undocumented Indians from the United States, the Congress has announced that all its State units will stage protests on Friday.

"We strongly oppose both the inhuman treatment of our citizens and the government's weak stance on this issue," Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said in a social media post, adding all Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) would hold protests in State capitals and district headquarters.

On Thursday, Indian Youth Congress chief Uday Bhanu Chib led a protest in the national capital against the "inhuman treatment of Indian deportees". "This is an insult to India and Indians on the world stage," Mr. Chib said.

A U.S. military plane carrying 104 undocumented immigrants landed in Amritsar on Wednesday, the first batch of Indians deported by the Donald Trump administration.

# BJP attempting to poach candidates in order to form govt. in Delhi: AAP

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A day after polling for the Delhi Assembly election, Aam Aadmi Party national spokesperson and MP Sanjay Singh on Thursday alleged that seven AAP candidates have received offers of ₹15 crore each from the Bharatiya Janata Party to leave the AAP and join the BJP to form the next government.

"Two things are clear: BJP has accepted defeat in Delhi. They have started 'Operation Lotus' in Delhi also for horse-trading of MLAs," he said at a press conference.

He did not reveal the names of the AAP leaders who got the calls or who called them but said that proof will be given at an appropriate time.

Hitting back at allegations of inducements to lure AAP candidates, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the frustration of AAP leaders is clearly visible and that they are resorting to baseless accusations in desperation ahead of counting day.

IIPM
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MC&I
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(AICTE - MHRD - GoI - Approved Programmes)
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Twinning Programme with Royal Agricultural University, UK
2. Post Graduate Diploma in Management: Food Processing and Business Management (PGDM-FPBM) 2025-27 (9th Batch)
Academic Collaboration with University of Wisconsin Madison, WWi-USA. Twinning Programme with NTU-UK) Under Approval Stage
3. Post Graduate Diploma in Management: Agricultural Export & Business Management (PGDM-AEBM) 2025-27 (6th Batch)
4. Fellow Programme in Management: (FPM-Ph.D) 2025-29 (6th Batch)
5. Executive Professional Certificate Programme in Agribusiness & Plantation Management (EPCP-ABPM) 2025 (11 months) 4th Batch
For detailed eligibility, selection criteria and application procedure, please visit website: www.iipmb.edu.in
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Date:07.02.2025
Notification No. 04/2025
DIRECTOR

## INBRIEF

### CBI books nine persons for 'sabotaging' I-T Dept. scheme

The CBI has booked nine persons, including an Income Tax Deputy Commissioner and two Inspectors, apart from five chartered accountants (CAs), for allegedly attempting to sabotage the "Faceless Scheme of Assessment" of the department. In 2019, the Union government had launched the faceless assessment system to eliminate face-to-face interaction between taxpayers and the Income Tax Department. However, it is alleged that to circumvent the system, a group of CAs in a criminal conspiracy with some income tax officials was clandestinely disclosing the names of pending high-value assessment, appeal, or refund cases.

### EPFO claims record number of settlements in 2024-25

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has settled claims of five crore subscribers in the financial year 2024-25. Claiming that the achievement is a record, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday that the pension fund regulator disbursed more than ₹2.05 lakh crore in this financial year."We have implemented key measures, including an increase in the ceiling and categories of auto-settled claims, simplified member profile changes, streamlined PF transfers, and improved KYC compliance ratios. These reforms have significantly improved the efficiency of EPFO," he told reporters.

# SC gives charge of kabaddi federation to governing body

Top court commends Justice Garg for ensuring transparency in the AKFI, asks the federation to prepare the women's team for the Senior Asian Kabaddi Championship to be hosted by Iran

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday requested the former Delhi High Court judge Justice S.P. Garg (retd) to hand over charge of the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) to a governing body elected in December 2023.

The court directed the federation, which is recognised by the Union Sports Ministry, to facilitate the selection and conditioning of the women's team set to participate in the Senior Asian Kabaddi Championship to be hosted by Iran from February 20 to 25.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh commended Justice Garg, who was appointed the administrator of the AKFI by an order of the Delhi High Court, for ushering in transparency and reforms in the sport's administration.

The apex court ordered the handing over of the reins and compliance with its order by February 11. It sought a compliance report to be filed by the AKFI in the next court hearing on March 3, when counsel of the governing body must be present in court.

Players participating in senior kabaddi selections in Sangareddy district in Telangana in November. MOHAMMAD ARIF

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta appeared for the Centre, while senior advocates Gopal Sankaranarayanan and Menaka Guruswamy and advocate Sravan Kumar represented veteran players.

**Conditioning camp**

During the hearing, senior advocate K. Parameshwar, appearing for the women players Priyanka and Pooja, submitted there was an immediate need for "conditioning camp". The senior advocate informed the court that even the selection of the team had been in limbo.

The court said that with the entrustment of the AKFI administration with its governing body, the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) must abide by its positive assurance in a February 6 letter to allow the Indian team to participate in the upcoming championships. Mr. Sankaranarayanan urged the court to bring the Constitution of the AKFI in consonance with the National Sports Code of India, 2011, and to conduct fresh elections.

The Bench clarified that handing over the charge of the AKFI to the governing body did not, by default, mean that the court had already recognised it. The arrangement was described by Justice Kant as "*ad hoc*".

In the previous hearing on February 4, the court had directed Mr. Mehta to find out whether the electoral roll of the AKFI was valid and transparent, and if the State units were represented by genuinely elected or nominated persons.

The court had in the earlier hearing also made clear its intention to examine allegations of opacity, monopoly and corruption against individuals, including the family of a former Rajasthan Minister, Janardhan Singh Gehlot, who had run the AKFI for decades, culminating in the loss of its IKF affiliation. It had asked Mr. Mehta to explore diplomatic channels for the resolution of the conflict regarding the recognition of sports associations, most urgently the AKFI.

# UGC extends date to submit feedback on draft guidelines

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A day after the Education Ministers of six non-BJP-ruled States met in Bengaluru and resolved against the University Grants Commission's draft guidelines on faculty, including vice-chancellors' appointments, the commission decided to extend the last date to submit feedback.

The stakeholders can now send in their responses to the UGC till February 28.

A public notice issued by the commission said that in view of requests received from stakeholders to extend the last date to submit feedback on the draft UGC Regulations, 2025, the commission had now decided to fix the last date as February 28.

**Minister's statement**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said it was both unfortunate and concerning to see how some political leaders, including Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, twisted progressive educational reforms into imaginary threats to sustain their outdated political narratives.

"The UGC draft regulations aim to broaden horizons, not narrow them. They seek to include more voices, not silence them. They uphold institutional autonomy and our linguistic diversity. They strengthen our academic institutions, not weaken them. But perhaps these facts are too inconvenient for those who prefer rhetoric to reality," he said on social media.

**Some political leaders are twisting educational reforms into imaginary threats, says Education Minister**

**'Petty politics'**

Mr. Pradhan added that opposing something just for the sake of opposing it might be fashionable, it might be a good political posturing, but it was, however, certainly petty politics.

"I would humbly suggest that Rahul Gandhi and the self-proclaimed champions of Constitution invest some time in actually reading the draft regulations before launching their rehearsed political performances," the Minister said.

# SC shifts pleas against CLAT 2025 results to Delhi HC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered petitions pending in various High Courts challenging the results of the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT), 2025 to a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court for expeditious disposal.

The CLAT is a national-level entrance exam for admissions to undergraduate and postgraduate law programmes offered by 24 national law universities in the country. A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan directed the petitions to be transferred from various courts to the Delhi High Court within seven days of the publication of the copy of this transfer order from the top court.

# Sports champions, actors to feature in Modi's pre-examination event

**Maitri Porecha**
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with school students, parents and teachers across the country in his annual *Pariksha Pe Charcha* event scheduled for February 10.

Mr. Modi will discuss exam preparation, stress management and personal growth during the event aimed at students appearing for Board examinations.

The Education Ministry said here on Thursday that the event would have eight episodes in a revamped format, and would feature personalities such as M.C. Mary Kom, Deepika Padukone and Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.

**First interaction**

The first interaction of students with Mr. Modi will be telecast on Doordarshan, the educational portal Swayam, the educational DTH channel Swayam Prabha, the YouTube channel of the Prime Minister's Office, and social media channels of the Ministries of Education and Information and Broadcasting.

Prime Minister interacting with the students, teachers and parents, during the 6th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha in 2023. ANI

Subsequent episodes will focus on sports and discipline and will feature the Olympic medal-winning boxer Ms. Kom, Paralympics gold medal-winning rifle shooter Avani Lekhara, and badminton champion Suhas Yathiraj. The sports stars will talk about goal-setting, resilience, and stress management through discipline. The episode on mental health will be addressed by Ms. Padukone.

On nutrition, experts Shonali Sabherwal and Rujuta Diwekar will highlight healthy eating habits and the role of quality sleep in academic success.

Social media influencer Revant Himatsingka will provide insights on leading a healthy lifestyle.

On the topics of technology and finance, Gaurav Chaudhary, who is known as "Technical Guruji" and is CEO of Edelweiss Asset Management, will speak.

Radhika Gupta will explore technology as a tool for smarter learning and financial literacy.

In the episode dealing with creativity and positivity, actors Vikrant Massey and Bhumi Pednekar will inspire students to visualise and release negative thoughts. For mindfulness and mental peace, spiritual leader Sadhguru will share techniques to help students maintain focus.

This year, 36 students from across the country have been selected from government schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, sainik schools, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, and CBSE and Navodaya Vidyalayas.

# Prime Minister's speech is full of lies and half-truths, says Mallikarjun Kharge

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a sharp rebuttal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks to the the President on Thursday, slammed Mr. Modi for living in the past.

"How can a person who just lives in history build the present and the future," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

The Congress president alleged that the Prime Minister's speech was "full of lies and half-truths".

**The future is 'dark'**

Mr. Kharge claimed that in the hands of this government, the "country's future is dark" as Mr. Modi only kept cursing the Congress instead of talking about unemployment, inflation, economic inequality, recession, falling rupee, falling private investment and the failed 'Make in India'. Referring to the first amendment to the Constitution, Mr. Kharge said it was done to abolish *zamindari*, introduce land reforms and extend reservation for backward classes.

> How can a person who just lives in history build the present and the future
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president

Countering Mr. Modi's claim that the Congress didn't want B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly, Mr. Kharge said his party had made its member M.R. Jayakar resign from Mumbai to bring Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar to the Constituent Assembly.

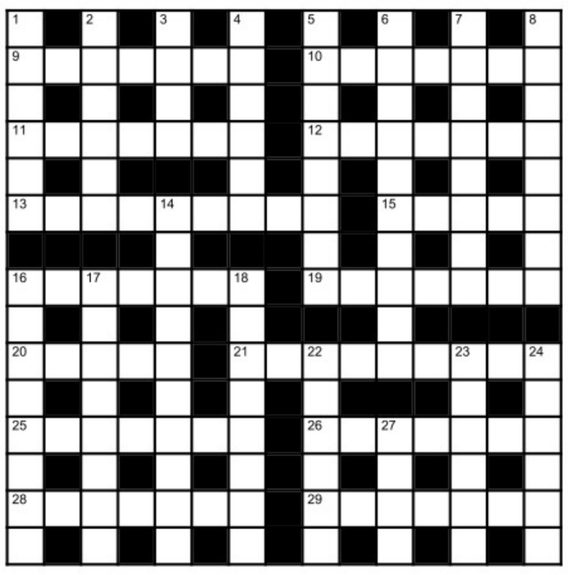
"He [Dr. Ambedkar] became the first Law Minister of the country in Pandit [Jawaharlal] Nehru's government. The Congress wanted Babasaheb to reach Rajya Sabha with respect and helped him in this. Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar himself wrote a letter and revealed that S.A. Dange and [Vinayak Damodar] Savarkar were responsible for his defeat," the Congress chief said.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14402

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

**9** Obscure figure, exchanging 100 for 50 at first (7)
**10** Ideal uniform - a point to tailor (7)
**11** Mr. Patel lost a knight (7)
**12** Agree to disrobe - it's nothing in Spanish country (7)
**13** Representation of light coming through the entrance (9)
**15** Return to a team (5)
**16** Seen working with girl in the country (7)
**19** Hesitates to collect interest and surrenders (7)
**20** Has samples of packaged tea (5)
**21** Before starting all matches are like cricket, hockey and soccer (4,5)
**25** Patron has left in the middle - I'm ruined (4,3)
**26** Affinity for music and wine (7)
**28** In Italian, it's essential to review some of the verse (7)
**29** All together for pennies - regularly receiving service (2,5)

**Down**

**1** Attack golf in other words (4-2)
**2** Extremely fanciful Yank - I can ignore a gay man (6)
**3** Round and round, lift a stone (4)
**4** Fancy rate accepted by shop (6)
**5** Seal a flat or cottage... (8)
**6** ...means status is coming down (10)
**7** Kindle, pack it in the bag (8)
**8** They talk of spending penny for new shoes (8)
**14** Trump at play, elected to pick up his pet slogan - A cat indeed! (10)
**16** Hit and run - that is careless (8)
**17** Curiosity about one's sins (8)
**18** West African with oil trade - could become billionaire (8)
**22** Top level changes - it's more difficult to find where fat accumulates (6)
**23** Current passing through wet insulation shows red (6)
**24** Entrance examination-like to pick up some material (6)
**27** Show Italian banker and politician (4)

## SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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**Solution to previous puzzle**

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| C | R | A | N | N | Y | | D | E |
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**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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| 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 |

## FAITH

### Remedy for confused mind

A person is said to be confused if he cannot make decisions properly. An error in memory affects decision-making. If his thinking capacity is impaired, he cannot judge and forecast the outcome of his activities. Making wrong decisions out of bewilderment may land a person in deep peril.

Thanneerpalli Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that joy and sorrow do not arise from material things but from a person's mental disposition. An alcoholic feels pleasure by drinking, whereas a teetotaller does not prefer the beverage.

Will people ever prefer to undergo suffering rather than enjoy comforts and pleasures? Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that people should try to hold pleasure and pain, gain and loss, victory and defeat alike so that they do not incur any sin (*Sukha Dukhe* – CH-2-Verse 38).

Joy and sorrow are temporary only. People should neither be too ecstatic for happiness nor sombre for unhappiness. Surrendering to God's feet will help a person treat both alike. Hanuman asked Sita whether she could undergo such severe pangs at Ashokavanam. But Sita replied that sins would not be extinguished without experiencing them.

Thiruvalluvar says a person who does not long for joy will never be upset by the pain of sorrow. Confused in the battle, Arjuna pleaded to Lord Krishna, "With my heart stricken by the fault of weak compassion, with my mind perplexed, I request you to say what is good for me." When we are at a loss, we should seek the advice of great Acharyas and pious people to help and guide us.

## INBRIEF

### Akasa Air gets funding from Azim Premji, Pai family offices

Tech tycoon Azim Premji's global investment arm and Manipal group chief Ranjan Pai's family office have invested an undisclosed sum of money to pick up a stake in Akasa Air, India's youngest airline. In a statement, the airline said promoter Jhunjhumwala family has also committed more funds to Akasa. The Jhunjhunwala family and Vinay Dube, the founder and CEO of Akasa Air, own a majority stake in the airline. PTI

### Rupee slips 16 paise to close at 87.59 against U.S. dollar

The rupee plunged 16 paise to close at an all-time low of 87.59 against the U.S. dollar on Thursday, as rising odds of a rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India in its monetary policy meeting on Friday pressurised the rupee. Forex traders said the Indian rupee plunged to fresh record lows amid weak domestic markets and importer demand for dollars. Moreover, risk aversion in global markets amid ongoing uncertainty over US trade tariffs may further weigh on the rupee. PTI

### Byju's suspended RP, former promoters approach NCLAT

The former Resolution Professional (RP) of insolvency bound edtech firm Byju's moved appellate tribunal NCLAT against disciplinary action recommended against him by Bengaluru bench of the NCLT. Also, ex-Byju's promoters and Byju Raveendran's brother Riju Raveendran also moved the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) against NCLT order restating Glas Trust and Aditya Birla Finance in Committee of Creditors (CoC) of the edtech firm. PTI

# Q3 net up 84%, SBI terms the Budget tax breaks a big plus

State Bank of India chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty says the Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) benefits for senior citizens will also have positive implications for the banking system

**Lalatendu Mishra**
MUMBAI

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), posted a 84.3% year-on-year growth in its third-quarter net profit to ₹16,891 crore compared with ₹9,164 crore a year ago.

The bank's Q3 profit had been hit last year by a one-time ₹7,100 crore provision for wage revision and pension costs. Net Interest Income grew 4.6% to ₹41,446 crore. However, the bank's net interest margin fell from 3.46% to 3.27%.

Asset quality improved with gross non-performing assets (GNPA) falling 2.75% to ₹84,360 crore, and net NPA dipping 4.60% to ₹21,378 crore.

**Firm footing:** SBI maintains its guidance of 14-16% growth in advances and 10% growth deposits, its chairman said. REUTERS

Deposits at ₹52,29,384 crore grew 9.81% while gross advances rose 13.49% to ₹40,67,752 crore. "We have maintained asset quality and have sufficient headroom for growth," the lender's chairman C. S. Setty emphasised.

On the proposed income tax relief in the Budget for those earning upto ₹12-lakh annually, Mr. Setty said: "This is definitely a positive step for the banking system. A large number of clients are from this category and the TDS benefit for senior citizens announced in the Budget is also a big positive."

To a question from *The Hindu* on U.S. tariff action, Mr. Setty said, "There is also a positive side depending on which country will be hit by the tariffs. India's export basket is highly diversified in geographies and product profile. So, I do not see an immediate impact of tariff action."

# ITC's Q3 net slips 7% on cost surge, to pay ₹6.50 dividend

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) major ITC Ltd. reported a 7% dip in its consolidated net profit for the third quarter ended December 31 to ₹5,013 crore, owing to a sharp escalation in input costs. Consolidated revenue grew 8% to ₹20,350 crore.

The ITC board recommended an interim dividend of ₹6.50 per share for FY25. The record date will be February 12. It was a resilient performance amid

subdued demand environment and sharp escalation in input cost, ITC said in a filing. Revenue growth was driven by agri-business, hotels and cigarettes.

The company said it witnessed sharp cost escalation in key input materials (edible oil, wheat, potato, leaf tobacco, wood, etc.) in the third quarter.

FMCG revenues grew 4% amid muted demand. Cigarette revenue rose 8.1% while ITC's agri-business saw 9.7% revenue growth.

Paperboards, paper and packaging segment remained impacted due to low-priced Chinese and Indonesian supplies in global markets, including in India, soft domestic demand conditions, and an unprecedented surge in wood prices, the company said.

# In Q3, Hero MotoCorp net up 12%, to pay ₹100 dividend

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, reported a third quarter standalone net profit of ₹1,203 crore, up 12% year-on-year.

The company's revenue from operations stood at ₹10,211 crore compared with ₹9,724 crore a year ago. Hero MotoCorp declared an interim dividend of ₹100 per share [5000%].

# Jumpstarting January: Auto retail sales up 7%, passenger vehicles 16%

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Automobile retail sales in India rose 7% year-on-year in January at 22,91,621 units, driven by robust demand across segments, dealer's body FADA said on Thursday.

Overall retail sales stood at 21,49,117 units in January 2024. "Our observations indicate that each vehicle category – 2W, 3W, PV, tractor and CV-- witnessed positive momentum, pointing toward sustained consumer confidence and steady market recovery," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) president C.S. Vigneshwar said in an official statement.

Passenger vehicle retail sales jumped 16 % year-on-year to 4,65,920 units last month. Many dealers noted improved demand but also pointed to last year's heavy discounting, which helped clear older models and shift registrations, Mr. Vigneshwar said.

Inventory levels with dealers improved, dropping by around five days to 50-55 days, suggesting an improved supply-demand balance, he added.

Two-wheeler retail sales stood at 15,25,862 units last month, marking an increase of 4%, as compared with 14,65,039 units in the same month last year.

Dealers cited new model launches, marriage season demand and improved financing as key growth drivers, he added.

## MARKETS

### MARKET WATCH

| | THURSDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 78,058 | -0.27 |
| US Dollar | 87.59 | -0.18 |
| Gold | 86,070 | 0.31 |
| Brent oil | 74.92 | 0.34 |

### NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 2312.45 | -12.15 |
| Adani Ports | 1164.05 | 19.70 |
| Apollo Hosp | 6874.25 | -70.40 |
| Asian Paints | 2263.40 | -11.80 |
| Axis Bank | 1020.70 | 7.40 |
| Bajaj Auto | 8846.35 | -81.45 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1788.00 | -8.75 |
| Bajaj Finance | 8507.30 | -2.15 |
| Bharat Elec | 279.75 | -9.20 |
| Bharti Airtel | 1619.75 | -40.70 |
| BPCL | 262.55 | 1.30 |
| Britannia Ind | 4956.05 | 23.40 |
| Cipla | 1471.50 | 34.70 |
| Coal India | 379.60 | -3.25 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 1236.65 | 9.10 |
| Eicher Motors | 5342.00 | -75.20 |
| Grasim Ind | 2499.00 | 9.00 |
| HCL Tech | 1723.50 | 10.65 |
| HDFC Bank | 1743.85 | 6.05 |
| HDFC Life | 631.95 | 4.10 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 4230.05 | -40.35 |
| Hindalco | 595.45 | -5.15 |
| Hind Unilever | 2372.70 | -18.35 |
| ICICI Bank | 1272.40 | 4.70 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1065.55 | 4.35 |
| Infosys | 1915.65 | 18.60 |
| ITC | 441.10 | -7.05 |
| ITC Hotels Ltd | 172.11 | 3.59 |
| JSW Steel | 948.40 | -1.50 |
| Kotak Bank | 1915.95 | 4.20 |
| L&T | 3352.75 | -30.45 |
| M&M | 3139.95 | -38.80 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 13074.00 | -12.80 |
| NestleIndia | 2239.45 | -9.50 |
| NTPC | 312.80 | -6.80 |
| ONGC | 256.15 | -5.50 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 281.15 | -4.05 |
| Reliance Ind | 1281.55 | 3.35 |
| SBI Life | 1465.10 | -4.05 |
| State Bank | 752.25 | -13.80 |
| Shriram Finance Ltd. | 566.35 | -4.95 |
| Sun Pharma | 1742.00 | -10.75 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 1023.35 | 8.05 |
| Tata Motors | 709.65 | -7.40 |
| Tata Steel | 132.54 | -1.86 |
| TCS | 4082.75 | -8.35 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1669.60 | 8.60 |
| Titan | 3410.75 | -80.15 |
| Trent Ltd. | 5277.10 | -472.85 |
| UltraTech Cement | 11477.35 | -108.35 |
| Wipro | 317.95 | 0.85 |

### EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 06

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 87.38 | 87.70 |
| Euro | 90.57 | 90.90 |
| British Pound | 108.59 | 108.99 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 57.31 | 57.53 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.99 | 12.03 |
| Swiss Franc | 96.52 | 96.89 |
| Singapore Dollar | 64.57 | 64.82 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.86 | 61.10 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 19.69 | 19.79 |
| Australian Dollar | 54.74 | 54.94 |

Source:Indian Bank

# Odisha joins States' pitch for 50% share of divisible tax pool

**Satyasundar Barik**
BHUBANESWAR

Mohan Majhi

Odisha has joined the growing demand for the Finance Commission to raise States' share in India's divisible tax pool to 50%, from about 41% currently. The Sixteenth Finance Commission chairman Arvind Panagariya acknowledged the broader call by many States for a higher allocation.

The Constitutional panel, in Odisha from February 4 to 7 as part of its consultation process, has discussed the criteria for deciding the financial needs and the devolution formula with Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, political leaders, trade bodies, experts and urban local bodies.

"We have placed a demand that States' share in the tax pool be enhanced to 50%. Besides, the gross tax income of Government of India is distributed among the States on the basis of a defined formula. Accordingly, share of Odisha stands at 4.528%. We have demanded to enhance the share of Odisha to 4.964%," the Odisha CM said.

Odisha also demanded an increase in the central share in the corpus of the State Disaster Relief Fund from 75% to 100%, as the State faces frequent disasters. The Odisha CM has sought ₹12,59,148 Crore from the Commission for the five-year period from 2026-27 to 2030-31, noting that "the funds will help the State in steering the roadmap to a *Samruddha* (prosperous) Odisha by 2036."

Acknowledging the State's demand, Mr. Panagariya said, "We have received requests from the majority of States we visited to increase the State's share in the divisible pool to 50%. However, a few States indicated they could manage if the share is raised to at least 45%."

Odisha pointed out that the use of the entire population as a determinant of tax devolution (as differentiated from the its use purely for scaling purposes) as a negative line of thinking, because it denotes the entire population is a liability.

"A better approximation of the government liability would be population share modified by the share of vulnerable population (say SC and ST) and those requiring special attention (people above 80 years of age and widows without any support). We suggest that such a modified population variable be used in the devolution formula instead of the entire population with a weight of 15%," the State government emphasised in its presentation.

Moreover, the government said that "using area as a proxy for density of population is incorrect because even smaller States may be sparsely populated, while a State large in size is not necessarily sparsely populated".

# Indus stake sale boosts Bharti Airtel's Q3 net profit

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Bharti Airtel Ltd. reported a five-fold surge in its consolidated net profit for the third quarter ended December 31 to ₹16,135 crore on a one-time gain of ₹7,546 crore from the sale of a majority stake in the Indus Tower business.

Consolidated revenue grew 19% to ₹45,129 crore driven by 'strong momentum in India and continued underlying growth in constant currency in Africa', the company said.

At ₹34,654 crore, India revenue increased 24.6%. Mobile revenue grew 21.4% led by the residual impact of tariff flow through relentless focus to premiumise the portfolio with quality customers.

The firm's ARPU (Average Revenue per user) for the quarter stood at ₹245 up from ₹208 last year.

"Our balance sheet remains solid, supported by robust cash generation, prudent capital allocation and continued deleveraging," said Gopal Vittal, vice-chairman and MD.

"We prepaid another tranche of ₹3,626 crore of high-cost spectrum dues in Q3. We believe the industry needs further tariff repair to ensure sustained investments and long-term value creation," he noted.

**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**
**DEPARTMENT OF MPP & POWER**

**GLOBAL INVITATION OF BIDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS**

The Director (Energy) on behalf of Governor, Himachal Pradesh invites proposals from 'Eligible Bidders' for the implementation of the following Hydro-electric Projects, in Private Sector on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis:-

LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE ALLOTTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION ON BOOT BASIS

| Sr. No. | Name of Project | Tentative Capacity ( in MW) | River / Stream / Basin | District | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PART-I PROJECTS WHERE DPRs ARE READY | | | | | |
| 1 | Kurpan-III | 14.6 | Kurpan Khad | Kullu | DPR Prepared |
| 2 | Hurla-I | 9.4 | Beas Basin | Kullu | DPR Prepared |
| 3 | Sal-I | 6.5 | Sal/Ravi Basin | Chamba | DPR Prepared |
| | Sub Total (I) | 30.5 | | | |
| PART-II PROJECTS WHERE IRs/PFRs ARE READY FEASIBILITY TO BE ASCERTAINED BY IPPs | | | | | |
| Sr. No. | Name of Project | Tentative Capacity (in MW) | River / Stream / Basin | District | Remarks |
| 4 | Tagla | 63.6 | Tagla/Nesang | Kinnaur | IR/Salient Features available |
| 5 | Wangar-II | 36.9 | Wangar | Kinnaur | IR/Salient Features available |
| 6 | Jankar | 24.5 | Chenab Basin | Lahaul &Spiti/ Chamba | IR/Salient Features available |
| 7 | Laluni | 19.5 | Laluni | Chamba/ Kangra | IR/Salient Features available |
| 8 | Kalihen | 19.1 | Kalihen | Chamba/ Kangra | IR/Salient Features available |
| 9 | Gyamthing Stage-I | 15.0 | Gyamthing Khad/Satluj Basin | Kinnaur | IR/Salient Features available |
| 10 | Galwat | 12.8 | Chenab Basin | Chamba | IR/Salient Features available |
| 11 | RopaTop | 12.0 | Ropa Khad/Satluj Basin | Kinnaur | IR/Salient Features available |
| 12 | Wangar | 10.0 | Wanger Khad/Satluj | Kinnaur | IR/Salient Features available |
| 13 | Suil | 10.0 | Ravi | Chamba | IR/Salient Features available |
| 14 | Dheda-I | 9.4 | Chenab Basin | Chamba | IR/Salient Features available |
| 15 | Dheda | 8.9 | Chenab Basin | Chamba | IR/Salient Features available |
| 16 | Nogli Top | 8.4 | Nogli | Shimla | IR/Salient Features available |
| 17 | Duling | 8.4 | Duling | Kinnaur | IR/Salient Features available |
| 18 | Me | 7.5 | Chenab Basin | Chamba | IR/Salient Features available |
| 19 | Kutoi | 6.2 | Chenab Basin | Chamba | IR/Salient Features available |
| 20 | UR-I | 5.8 | Chenab Basin | Chamba | IR/Salient Features available |
| | Sub Total (II) | 278 | | | |
| | G. Total (I+II) | 308.5 | | | |

The **'Eligible Bidder'** shall mean any entity which can qualify as a generating company as defined in Electricity Act, 2003 Part-I Section 2[28] or as defined below.
[This would imply that any company or body Corporate or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not or artificial juridical person would be eligible]

**A. GENERAL CONDITIONS:- For detailed terms & conditions kindly visit official website of Directorate of Energy: https://doehimachal.nic.in/**

i. Bidders shall be required to submit 'Technical-Bids' and 'Price-Bids' on the Format appended in the Bid Document in two separate envelopes super scribed with "Technical-Bid" and "Price-Bid".

**B. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

a) The Bid Document containing details of Terms & Conditions regarding Bidding Process & Project Implementation, Bid Application Formats, questionnaire etc. would be available to the interested Bidders on payment of **Rupees One Lakh (Rs. 1,00,000/-)** only for Projects upto 25 MW & **Rupees Two Lakh (Rs. 2,00,000/-)** only for Projects above 25 MW, through a **bank draft/bankers cheque**, from the office of **the Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, 2nd Floor, MC Parking Building, near Tutikandi bypass, Shimla (HP)-171005, Tel. 91-177-2673552, 91-177-2673553 Fax No. +91-177-2673553 e-mail:** ceenergy09@gmail.com, **w. e. f. five days after publication**. The bank draft/banker's cheque shall be given in the name of Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, Shimla and drawn on any scheduled Indian Bank at Shimla. For getting the documents through Courier service, the additional charges @ Rs.3000/- for inland and Rs.5000/- for foreign countries shall be payable through a bank draft/bankers cheque.

b) The 'Technical-Bids' in response to the advertisement should be accompanied by a non-**refundable Processing Fee @ Rs.50,000/-(Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) per MW subject to maximum of Rupees Twenty Five Lakh (Rs. 25,00,000/-) per Project applied for**. The payment shall be made through bank draft/bankers cheque in the name of Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, Shimla drawn on any Scheduled Indian Bank at Shimla. Bids not accompanied by the Processing Fee are liable to be rejected forthwith.

c) For any query or clarification, the **Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, 2nd Floor, MC Parking Building, Near Tutikandi Bypass, Shimla (HP)-171005**, may be contacted on **Tel. 91-177-2673552, Fax No. +91-177-2673553 e-mail:** ceenergy09@gmail.com **& Official website of Directorate of Energy:** https://doehimachal.nic.in/

d) The last date for sale of Bid Documents to the interested bidders, the last date of submission of bids in the office of Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, at the above address and the date of opening of Bids are as under :-

i. **Start of sale of Bid Document : 13.02.2025**
ii. **Last date for sale of Bid Documents : 10.03.2025 upto 1700 Hours**
iii. **Tentative date of Pre-Bid Conference : 15.03.2025**
iv. **Last date of submission of Bids : 22.03.2025 upto 1300 Hours (IST)**
v. **Date of opening of Bids : 22.03.2025 at 1500 Hours (IST) onwards**

**Note:-If the Last date for submission of Bids or the date of opening of bids happens to be a holiday declared by the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh in Shimla, the bids will be submitted and opened on the next working day in the same order and at the same time.**

**Brief Project details can be seen on the web site** https://doehimachal.nic.in/

**For & on behalf of the Governor of HP**
**-sd/- Director Energy,**
**Government of Himachal Pradesh.**
Tel. +91-177-2673551, Fax +91-1772673553, E-mail:dir.doehp@nic.in

*HP / 1006/24-25*

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
**TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**
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Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
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For Registration

**Date :** 10, 11, 12, 13, 14th Feb 25
**Time :** 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
**Fees :** 3540/-(Inclusive of GST)

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**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT)**
**PHED BHARATPUR**
E-mail:- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
**Notice Inviting Bid No. 02/2024-25**
**Corrigendum No. 02**

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT No. 02/2024-25 has been extended and last date of submission has been made as 10.02.2025. Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original NIT.
**UBN No.:- PHE2425WLOB07095**

**(Surendra Sharma)**
**Addl. Chief Engineer(P)**
**PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan**
**DIPR/C/1127/2025**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) invites e-Tenders under two cover bid system (Bid I: Prequalification & Techno Commercial bid and Bid II: Price Bid) from eligible consultants.

**Name of Work :** Request for Proposal for Preparation of Pre-Feasibility Report for Setting up an IT Park in Kollam, Kerala.
**Tender No :** KSITIL/IT PARK/2024-25/09
**Due Date of Submission :** 18.02.2025, 15:00 Hrs.
Tender documents and tender schedule may be downloaded from the e-GP website
**www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

**Date: 04.02.2025** **Managing Director**
**Thiruvananthapuram** **Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd**
**D3/131/2025/I&PRD**

**JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
Indra Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur - 302004

No.: JDA/Estt./Actt.2024-25/D-1002 Date : 05.02.2025

**NOTICE INVITING BID**
**NIB No.: DC (Admn)-04/2024-25**

Online Bids are invited up-to 5:00 PM on 25.02.2025 for Providing Computer (along with trained personnel) on Job Basis. Estimated yearly cost of the bid is Rs. 700 Lakh/- UBN No. JDA2425SLOB00501. The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up-to 5:00 PM on 25.02.2025. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at JDA office or on the State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be:

1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in. For Participating in the bid, the bidder has to apply for the bid any pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee Bid Security Online only.
2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

UBN No.: JDA2425SLOB00501
**Raj.Samwad/C/24/11264**
**Deputy Commissioner (Admn)**

MANILA

## U.S. military-contracted plane crashes in Philippines killing 4

AP

A U.S. military-contracted plane crashed in a rice field in the southern Philippines, killing all four on board. Philippine officials confirmed the crash in Maguindanao del Sur province. The bodies of four foreign nationals were recovered from the wreckage. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command will issue a more detailed statement. AP

PARIS

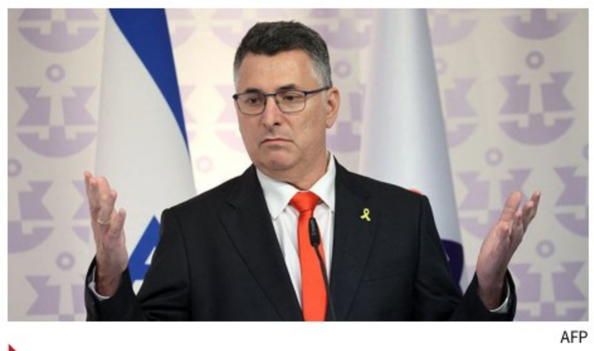
## French Parliament finally adopts Budget after tumultuous process

AFP

France's Parliament on Thursday adopted the 2025 Budget after a tumultuous process. Prime Minister François Bayrou survived no-confidence votes on Wednesday. The Senate approved the Budget with 219 votes. This Budget aims to reduce the public deficit to 5.4% of GDP in 2025 through savings and tax increases. AFP

GENEVA

## Israel has no plans to exit other UN bodies after rights council boycott



AFP

Israel on Thursday said that it was not planning to withdraw from other United Nations bodies besides the Human Rights Council, which it is boycotting over perceived bias and "anti-Semitism". Foreign Minister Gideon Saar on Wednesday announced that Israel would halt its participation in the UN's top rights body. AFP

TEHRAN

## Iran Revolutionary Guards unveil first drone carrier in Gulf waters

AFP

Iran's Revolutionary Guards revealed their first drone carrier, the *Martyr Bahman Bagheri*, in Gulf waters on Thursday. The vessel can launch long-range missiles, carry 60 drones and helicopters, and support electronic warfare. It can remain at sea for a year. The ship is the Islamic republic's largest naval military project. AFP

# Israel tells Army to prepare for 'departure' of Gazans

Trump had proposed that U.S. 'take over' Gaza to relocate residents, sparking major international condemnation; Palestinians firmly reject any forced exile, asserting their right to remain in Gaza

**Reuters**
JERUSALEM

Israel's Defence Minister ordered the Army on Thursday to prepare a plan to allow the "voluntary departure" of residents from Gaza, after U.S. President Donald Trump drew widespread condemnation for announcing plans to take over the strip.

Defence Minister Israel Katz hailed Mr. Trump's announcement that the United States would aim to take control of Gaza, resettle the more than 2 million Palestinians living there and transform the territory into the "Riviera of the Middle East".

"I welcome President Trump's bold plan, Gaza residents should be allowed the freedom to leave and emigrate, as is the norm around the world," Mr. Katz said on X. He said his plan would include exit options via land crossings, as well as special arrangements for departure by sea and air.

**Last resort:** Palestinians take shelter in tents set up amid heavily damaged buildings in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. AFP

Displacement of Palestinians is one of the most sensitive and explosive issues in the West Asia. Forced or coerced displacement of a population under military occupation is a war crime, banned under the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Israeli strikes which killed tens of thousands of people over the past 16 months have forced Palestinians to repeatedly move around within Gaza, seeking safety. But many say they will never leave the enclave because they fear permanent displacement, like the "Nakba", or catastrophe, when hundreds of thousands were dispossessed from homes in the war at the birth of the state of Israel in 1948.

**Driven out**

Many were driven out or fled to Gaza, the West Bank and neighbouring Arab states including to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, where their descendants still live in refugee camps. Israel disputes the account that they were forced out.

Mr. Katz said countries who have opposed Israel's military operations in Gaza should take in the Palestinians.

## Trump's Gaza plan appears to be on hold amid furore

**Agence France-Presse**
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration appeared to backtrack on Wednesday after his proposal to take over Gaza sparked uproar, with the United Nations warning against "ethnic cleansing" in the Palestinian territory.

Facing a wave of criticism from Palestinians, Arab governments and world leaders, Mr. Trump's Secretary of State Marco Rubio, describing it as a "generous move", said any transfer of Gazans would be temporary, while the White House said there was no commitment to sending U.S. troops.

Mr. Trump, however, insisted "everybody loves" the plan, which he announced to audible gasps during a White House press conference with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

## Trump signs order barring trans athletes from women's sports

**Agence France-Presse**
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Wednesday seeking to ban transgender athletes from participating in women's sports, in his latest move targeting transgender people since returning to office.

"From now on women's sports will be only for women," Mr. Trump said before he signed the order at the White House, surrounded by dozens of children and female athletes.

"With this executive order the war on women's sports is over."

Top Republicans including U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson and firebrand Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene were among those in the audience to watch the signing ceremony.

"We will defend the proud tradition of female

Donald Trump

athletes, and we will not allow men to beat up, injure and cheat our women and our girls," Mr. Trump added.

Mr. Trump's order allows U.S. government agencies to deny funds to schools that allow transgender athletes to compete on women's teams.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), which regulates student athletics in colleges across the country, welcomed the order and said they would align to it "in the coming days".

## Argentina bans gender transitions for minors

**Agence France-Presse**
BUENOS AIRES

Argentina said on Wednesday it would ban gender transition procedures for minors, part of President Javier Milei's war on what he calls "woke ideology".

Presidential spokesperson Manuel Adorni said the government would amend a 2012 law to "ban hormone treatment and body adaptation surgery for people aged under 18". He argued that gender transition treatments posed a "serious risk" to the physical and mental health of minors.

"In many cases the effects of these treatments and surgeries are irreversible," he said, listing Finland, Sweden, Britain and the United States among countries that are restricting access to gender transitions for minors, including treatment such as puberty blockers.

## Guatemala gives Rubio a second deal of deportation

**Associated Press**
GUATEMALA CITY

Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo said on Wednesday his country will accept migrants from other countries who are being deported from the United States, the second deportation deal that Secretary of State Marco Rubio has reached during a Central America trip that has been focused mainly on immigration.

Under the agreement announced by Mr. Arévalo, the deportees would be returned to their home countries at U.S. expense. Previously, including under the Biden administration, Guatemala had been accepting on average seven to eight flights of its citizens from U.S. per week.

## Panama rebuffs U.S claim of free travel through the Canal

**Agence France-Presse**
WASHINGTON

Panama on Thursday rejected the United States' claim that it had secured free passage for government vessels through the Panama Canal.

Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino told reporters the U.S. assertion about the waterway was "intolerable, simply and plainly intolerable," adding that he rejected "bilateral relations based on lies and falsehoods".

Since winning the U.S. election in November, U.S. President Donald Trump has refused to rule out the use of force to seize the canal built by Washington over a century ago and later handed over to Panama.

Around 40% of U.S. container traffic passes through the narrow body of water linking the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean.

The new row between Panama and Washington erupted after the U.S. State Department claimed that Panama had agreed to let U.S. government vessels through the canal for free after talks last weekend between Mr. Mulino and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

In a post on X, the State Department claimed the decision would save the U.S. government "millions of dollars a year". The Panama Canal Authority, which runs the waterway, quickly rejected the claim, saying it had "not made any adjustments" to its tariffs.

## France sends Mirage 2000 fighter jets to Ukraine

**Agence France-Presse**
PARIS

France has delivered a first consignment of Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets to Ukraine to help Kyiv defend its airspace against Russia, Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu said on X on Thursday.

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the delivery, which comes amid fears of decreasing support from Washington since U.S. President Donald Trump's inauguration.

Of the 26 Mirage 2000-5 aircraft owned by the French air force, six were to be transferred to Ukraine, according to a Budget report published by France's Lower House of Parliament.

## At least 80 killed as Army, militant outfit clash in Sudan; UN warns of 'catastrophe'

**Agence France-Presse**
PORT SUDAN

The United Nations warned on Thursday that two southern Sudan states were "on the brink of catastrophe" after a recent eruption of violence reportedly killed at least 80 people in one city.

Renewed fighting broke out last week in the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile between the Army and a faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) led by Abdel Aziz al-Hilu.

United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator in Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami said the fighting had reportedly claimed at least 80 lives in South Kordofan state capital Kadugli alone.

"I condemn the reported use of women and children as human shields in Kadugli, the obstruction of humanitarian aid, and the detention of civilians in-

**Army and SPLM-N have accused each other of launching attacks, and targeting civilians**

cluding children," the UN's most senior official in the country said in a statement.

Sudan's Army and its main rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), have been at war for control of the country since April 2023, creating a widespread humanitarian crisis. Mr. Hilu's unaffiliated faction of the SPLM-N has clashed with both since the war broke out. In recent days, the Army and the SPLM-N have accused each other of launching attacks and targeting civilians in an attempt to capture territory.

The UN warned the escalating violence would only worsen the already dire humanitarian situation.

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TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.310) Date:06-02-2025 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**
**BANGALORE-560 012**

IISc/Tender-CIV-13/2024-25 — Date: 04.02.2025

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in** for the work of **"Tank Cleaning of water Storage Reservoirs, Underground Sumps, RCC/masonary/Synthetic Overhead tanks at IISc, Bangalore"**. Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.40,66,149.00**. Last date of receipt of application is **20th Feb 2025 at 1530Hrs**. Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in.** — **REGISTRAR**

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR**

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**UBN:-SMS2425SLRC00438, NIB No.:- SMS2425A0297**

DIPR/C/1135/2025 — **PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER**

**Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Circle, Kekri**

No.: 309-316 — Date:-27.01.2025

**NIB No.: PWD2425A3936**

**Notice Inviting Bid No. 05/2024-25**

Bid for 02 No. Package are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM on 17.02.2024 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 325.91 Lacs.

**S.No. 1 - UBN No.:- PWD2425WSOB14209,**
**S.No. 2 - UBN No.:- PWD2425WSOB14290**

DIPR/C/1236/2025 — (गिर्राज प्रसाद गुप्ता), अधीक्षण अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. वृत केकड़ी

**National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation**
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NBCC Tower, 5th Floor, 15 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066
Tel.Ph: 011- 26712583 Website:https://nstfdc.tribal.gov.in

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National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, is seeking applications from eligible candidates on direct recruitment basis as per details here under:

| Name of post and Pay Scale | Categories | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of Post (s) | UR | SC | ST | OBC | Total |
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| DEPUTY MANAGER (Project) E-1 (Rs.40,000- 1,40,000/-) | 02 | 01 | - | 01 | - | 02 |

For qualifications, eligibility and other details, please visit NSTFDCs website http:/nstfdc.tribal.gov.in. The last date of receipt of applications is **30 days** from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

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WAMUL/NPDD/24-25/01 — Date: 07.02.2025

**Tender Notice**

National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) a Government of India Scheme has been restructured with the aim of enhancing quality of milk and milk products and West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) and East Assam Milk Producers Cooperative Union Ltd (EAMUL) are the implementing agencies for Assam. WAMUL & EAMUL now invites eligible bidders for participating in the tenders as described below:

| Sl. No. | Description | Date of publishing Tender | Last date of submission |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rooftop solar water heater for existing BMC centers (Cap 300 Ltrs) | 12-02-2025 | 27-02-2025 |
| 2 | Instant Milk Chiller (Cap 160 & 500 LPD) | 12-02-2025 | 27-02-2025 |
| 3 | Automatic Milk Collection Units (DCS Level) | 12-02-2025 | 27-02-2025 |
| 4 | Portable milk Analyzers (DCS/BMCLevels) | 13-02-2025 | 28-02-2025 |
| 5 | Electronic milk adulteration testing (EMAT) machines (DCS Level) | 13-02-2025 | 28-02-2025 |
| 6 | Purchase of furniture for laboratory of BMC centers | 13-02-2025 | 28-02-2025 |
| 7 | BMCU Monitoring System | 14-02-2025 | 01-03-2025 |
| 8 | Milk Tanker based milk measurement and sampling system | 14-02-2025 | 01-03-2025 |
| 9 | ICT Equipment | 14-02-2025 | 01-03-2025 |

The details of the E-tender will be published and available at www.assamtenders.gov.in as mentioned above. If any corrigendum is issued, it will be published in www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before last date and timing for submission of bid. No separate notification for publication of corrigendum or extension of last date of submission of bid will be made through newspaper advertisement.

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**SET IN STONE**

## Three-star Harshit enters record books after another stellar debut

K.R. DEEPAK

With his three for 53 against England on Thursday, Harshit Rana became the first Indian to pick three or more wickets on his debut across all formats. He registered figures of three for 48 and one for 69 in the Perth Test against Australia last year. The 23-year-old also struck thrice in the T20I against England in Mumbai last month.

**TURNING IT ON**

## Jadeja bags 600th international wicket, joins elite club

K.R. DEEPAK

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja scalped his 600th international wicket when he bowled Adil Rashid in the first ODI against England at Nagpur on Thursday. He has 223 ODI wickets to go with 323 Test wickets and 54 in T20Is. The Saurashtra cricketer became the fifth Indian after Kumble, Ashwin, Harbhajan and Kapil Dev to achieve it.

**NIGGLE**

## Sore right knee keeps Kohli out of the Nagpur ODI

K.R. DEEPAK

Virat Kohli missed the first ODI against England in Nagpur because of a sore right knee. The 36-year-old had a forgettable Australian tour, barring a ton in the first Test at Perth. With just two weeks left before the Champions Trophy, the team will hope it is not a serious injury and that he can be fit for the final two games in this series.

**KEY MOMENT**

## Salt's run-out was the turning point in first ODI, says Buttler

K.R. DEEPAK

England skipper Jos Buttler felt Phil Salt's dismissal changed the momentum of the match. "I think Salt and Duckett played brilliantly in that PowerPlay, putting the opposition under much pressure. An unfortunate run-out changed the momentum, and we lost four wickets quickly. We were probably 40 or 50 runs short".

# India's batting might crushes England in Orange City

Gill forges alliances with Shreyas and Axar as the Men in Blue kickstart their Champions Trophy preparation in style; Harshit, Jadeja restrict the visitors to 248 despite a rapid start by Salt and Duckett

**ENGLAND IN INDIA**

**S. Dipak Ragav**
NAGPUR

Shubman Gill (87, 96b, 14x4) and Shreyas Iyer (59, 36b, 9x4, 2x6) ensured India kickstarted its ICC Champions Trophy preparation on the right note, guiding the side to a comfortable four-wicket win over England in the first One-Day International at the VCA Stadium here on Thursday.

In front of a packed house, the duo put on a stellar display of free-flowing strokeplay, sending the English bowlers on a leather hunt. Their 94-run alliance off 64 balls for the third wicket ensured the host chased down a target of 249 in the 39th over.

Earlier, a disciplined bowling performance led by debutant pacer Harshit Rana (three for 53) and Ravindra Jadeja (three for 26) – playing his first ODI since November 2023 – helped the home team bundle England out for 248.

In reply, India started poorly when Yashasvi Jaiswal, making his debut and skipper Rohit Sharma, fell cheaply.

> I wasn't supposed to play. The funny story is I was watching a movie last night and then got a call from the skipper saying I may play
> **SHREYAS**

However, Shreyas came out guns blazing and took on the English pacers who attempted to pepper him with short-pitched deliveries. After flicking Saqib Mahmood to get going, the Mumbai batter pulled and ramped Jofra Archer for consecutive maximums to signal his intentions in the seventh over.

The 30-year-old then carved Brydon Carse for three boundaries – two square on the off-side and an exquisite cover drive – as India raced to 71 for two in 10 overs.

At the other end, Gill was not to be left behind and punished the English pacers' unidimensional plan of trying to bang it in short by deploying his trademark short-arm jab pulls without any risk.

Shreyas brought up his half-century in style by sweeping left-arm spinner Jacob Bethell to the fence off just 30 balls. Later, Axar Patel ensured the momentum was not lost and took on the spinners from the get-go.

The left-hander swept, cut and went inside-out en route his rapid half-century. In the 29th over, when Axar and Gill each collected a brace of boundaries off Carse to take India past 200, the match was pretty much done and dusted.

Earlier, England elected to bat and got off to a flyer in the PowerPlay when Phil Salt went after Harshit.

He welcomed the 23-year-old by hitting him for two boundaries in his first over and then smashed the youngster for three sixes and two fours in a 26-run sixth over. But against the run of play, Salt was run out, giving an opening for Rohit's men.

Harshit came back strongly, backing his strength of bowling into the pitch and troubled the batters with his bounce to pick two wickets in the 10th over.

He first had Duckett top-edging a pull to Jaiswal and then dismissed Harry Brook caught down the leg-side, trying to fend a well-directed, short-pitched delivery into the body.

Skipper Jos Buttler (52) did not try anything extravagant and kept the innings on track. Once he was dismissed, the innings fell apart as Harshit, Jadeja, and Shami ran through the lower-order.

Though the hosts stuttered close to the finish, they would be pleased with their clinical performance.

**Stamping their authority:** Gill and Shreyas were in imperious form as India won with 11.2 overs to spare. K.R. DEEPAK

**SCOREBOARD**

**ENGLAND**
Phil Salt run out 43 *(26b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Ben Duckett c Jaiswal b Harshit 32 *(29b, 6x4)*, Joe Root lbw b Jadeja 19 *(31b, 1x4)*, Harry Brook c Rahul b Harshit 0 *(3b)*, Jos Buttler c Hardik b Axar 52 *(67b, 4x4)*, Jacob Bethell lbw b Jadeja 51 *(64b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Liam Livingstone c Rahul b Harshit 5 *(10b)*, Brydon Carse b Shami 10 *(18b, 1x4)*, Adil Rashid b Jadeja 8 *(16b)*, Jofra Archer (not out) 21 *(18b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Saqib Mahmood st. Rahul b Kuldeep 2 *(4b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-2): 5; Total (in 47.4 overs): 248.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-75 (Salt, 8.5 overs), 2-77 (Duckett, 9.3), 3-77 (Brook, 9.6), 4-111 (Root, 18.3), 5-170 (Buttler, 32.6), 6-183 (Livingstone, 35.4), 7-206 (Carse, 39.5), 8-220 (Bethell, 42.4), 9-241 (Rashid, 46.4).

**INDIA BOWLING**
Shami 8-1-38-1, Harshit 7-1-53-3, Axar 7-0-38-1, Hardik 7-1-37-0, Kuldeep 9.4-0-53-1, Jadeja 9-1-26-3.

**INDIA**
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Salt b Archer 15 *(22b, 3x4)*, Rohit Sharma c Livingstone b Mahmood 2 *(7b)*, Shubman Gill c Buttler b Mahmood 87 *(96b, 14x4)*, Shreyas Iyer lbw b Bethell 59 *(36b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Axar Patel b Rashid 52 *(47b, 6x4, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul c & b Rashid 2 *(9b)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 9 *(6b, 1x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 12 *(10b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-8, w-4, nb-1): 13; Total (for six wkts. in 38.4 overs): 251.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-19 (Jaiswal, 4.3), 2-19 (Rohit, 5.2), 3-113 (Shreyas, 15.6), 4-221 (Axar, 33.4), 5-225 (Rahul, 35.4), 6-235 (Gill, 36.2).

**ENGLAND BOWLING**
Archer 7-1-39-1, Mahmood 6.4-0-47-2, Carse 5-0-52-0, Rashid 10-1-49-2, Bethell 3-0-18-1, Livingstone 5-0-28-0, Root 2-0-10-0.

**Toss:** England.
**PoM:** Gill.
*India won by four wickets with 68 balls remaining to lead three-match series 1-0.*
**Second ODI: February 9,** Cuttack, 1.30 p.m.

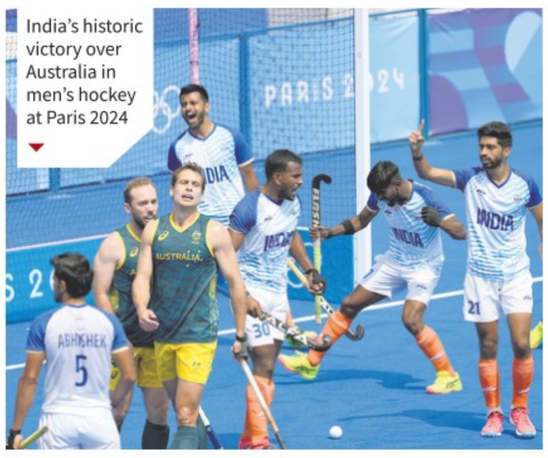
Amul presents SPORTSTAR ACES 2025 INDIA TRIUMPHS In association with IndianOil

## Nominees for Sporting Moment of the Year

2024 was a landmark year for Indian sports, with a host of achievements across several disciplines. The annual ***Sportstar*** **Aces Awards** seek to honour the trailblazers.

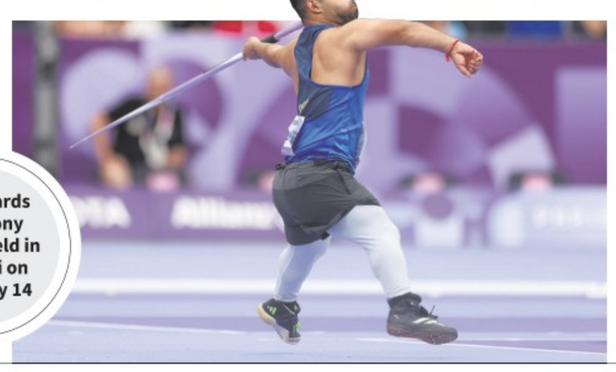
Suryakumar Yadav's catch in the T20 World Cup final

Vinesh Phogat beating Yui Susaki at Paris 2024



India's historic victory over Australia in men's hockey at Paris 2024

D. Gukesh winning the Candidates



Navdeep Singh winning gold in Paris Paralympics

The awards ceremony will be held in Mumbai on February 14

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Voting lines open for 2025 Sportstar Aces Awards. Scan the QR code

# Maaya, Shrivalli continue to dazzle

**MUMBAI OPEN WTA 125**

**Tarun Shastry**
MUMBAI

An anxious parent, sitting in the top-most corner seat of the main gallery at Centre Court, finally broke into a smile when Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas retired due to illness during the sixth game of the second set.

Maaya Rajeshwaran, only 15, advanced to her first quarterfinal with a 6-3, 3-2 (retd.) scoreline in the L&T Mumbai Open WTA 125 at the Cricket Club of India here on Thursday.

The Indian, solid from the baseline, produced some stunning cross-court return winners as she raced to a 5-1 lead against the former World No. 31.

Though Diyas won the next two games with her sharp play, Maaya sealed the set with a spectacular volley.

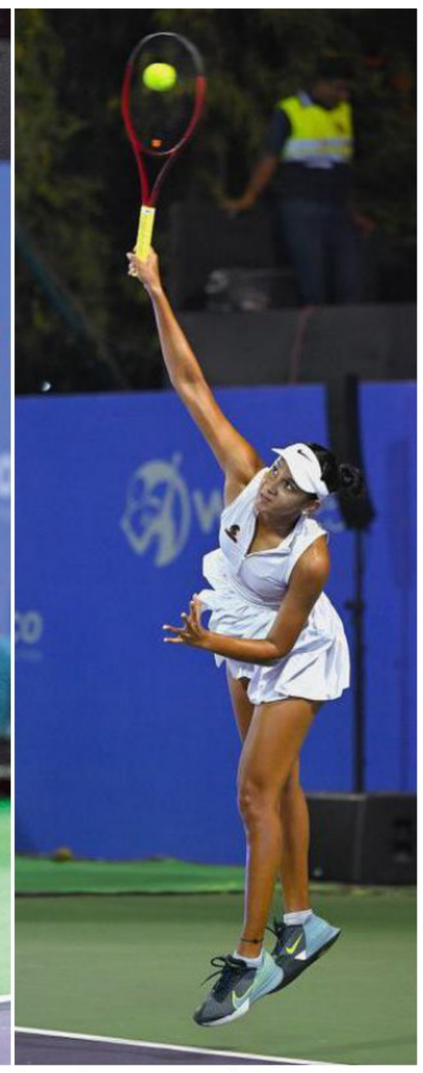
The Kazakh held a 2-0 advantage in the second after breaking serve early, but the Indian bounced back in the third game.

Maaya continued to be aggressive as she broke Diyas for a 3-2 lead. A struggling Diyas retired midway through the sixth game.

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty outclassed Aleksandra Kruncic 6-4, 6-0.

After trailing 0-3, the 23-year-old won six straight games and never looked back.

Earlier, Ankita Raina gave second seed Rebecca Marino a run for her money before losing 5-7, 6-2, 6-7(5). In a tight first set, Marino broke Ankita in the 12th game. The Indian roared back to take the second set 6-2 and force a decider, which the Canadian won 7-5 after a tense tie-break.



**On the rise:** Maaya and Shrivalli kept the Indian interest alive with an impressive show. EMMANUAL YOGINI

**Other results (round-of-16):**

**Doubles:** Prarthana Thombare & Arianne Hartono bt Nao Hibino & Oksana Kalashnikova 6-1, 6-3.

Eden Silva & Anastasia Tikhonova bt Jessie Aney & Jessica Failla 7-5, 7-5.

## INBRIEF

### Trisha and Varun in the fray for ICC Monthly award

India spinner Varun Chakaravarthy was on Thursday nominated for the ICC Men's Player of January following a stellar outing against England in the recent five-match T20I series. He bagged 14 wickets from five matches at an excellent average of 9.85 and at an economy rate of 7.66. G. Trisha, player-of-the-tournament in the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup, was nominated for the award in the women's category. The leading run-scorer with 309 runs, she also became the first-ever century-maker in the event.

### Aussies take day one honours despite Lankan fightback

Australia was in the driving seat despite a Sri Lankan fightback on day one of the second Test in Galle on Thursday. The host reached 229 for nine at stumps as Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon claimed three wickets apiece.

Sri Lanka, which opted to bat, looked in control at 93 for one. But Dimuth Karunaratne – in his 100th and final Test – dragged a ball from Lyon on to his stumps for 36 and handed Australia the crucial breakthrough.

**The scores:** Sri Lanka 229/9 in 90 overs (Chandimal 74, Kusal Mendis 59 batting; Starc 3/37, Lyon 3/78) vs Australia; **Toss:** SL.

### Rithvik-Barrientos go down fighting in Dallas

Rithvik Bollipalli and Nicolas Barrientos of Colombia lost 7-6(4), 5-7, [10-6] to fourth seeds Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram of the USA in the doubles quarterfinals of the $3,035,960 ATP tennis tournament in Dallas. Yuki Bhambri was entered in the $2,563,150 ATP event in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, along with Giovanni Perricard of France, but had to withdraw as his partner fell sick. Qualifier Manas Dhamne reached the quarterfinals of the $15,000 ITF men's event in Monastir, Tunisia, by beating the third seed Alejo quillez of Spain 6-3, 6-3.

**The results: $3,035,960 ATP, Dallas: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Austin Krajicek & Rajeev Ram (USA) bt Nicolas Brrientos (Col) & Rithvik Bollipalli 7-6(4), 5-7, [10-6]. **$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Pre-quarterfinals:** Manas Dhamne bt Alejo Quilez (Esp) 6-3, 6-3; **First round:** Manas bt ikolai Barsukov (Ger) 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.

### FC Goa puts it past Odisha FC in ISL

FC Goa scored a 2-1 win over Odisha FC in the ISL at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao on Thursday. Brison Fernandes shot the home side into lead in the 29th minute. Lalthathanga Khawlhring's own goal made it 2-0 shortly after the half-time break. K.P. Rahul pulled one back in the 54th minute. The visitor suffered a big blow as Ahmed Jahouh was red carded in the 73rd minute. Goa is in second spot with 36 points from 19 games. Odihsa remains in seventh place with 25 points from 19 outings.

**The result:** FC Goa 2 (Brison Fernandes 29, Lalthathanga Khawlhring-og 47) bt Odisha FC 1 (K.P. Rahul 54).

### Innings victory for Karnataka over Goa in u-14 boys' tourney

Karnataka defeated Goa by a convincing innings-and-55 run margin in the U-14 boys' south zone tournament being held in Puducherry.

**The scores:** Goa 169 in 77 overs (Keyaan Thota 39, Vanish Kurtarkar 28, Krishna Kumar 3/23) & 90 in 54.2 overs (Shaurya Chodankar 30, Ishant Tivrekar 31, Krishna Kumar 7/16) lost to Karnataka 314/5 decl. in 44 overs (R. Rohith Reddy 51, Nitish Arya 203, S.N. Avaneesh 35 n.o., Shaurya Chodankar 3/72).

### LIVE TELECAST

**Sri Lanka vs Australia:** 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
Zimbabwe vs Ireland: Only Test, day 2, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
**I-League:** Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 & 7 p.m.
**ISL:** Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
**Serie A:** gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
**LaLiga:** gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

# Confident Niraj shoots to glory in the men's rifle 50m 3-position

The Services' marksman outshines Olympic medallist Swapnil and Aishwary to land the prize; Suruchi pairs up with Parmod to take her second gold

NATIONAL GAMES

**Stan Rayan**
DEHRADUN

**Day to remember:** Niraj is all smiles after his remarkable win while Suruchi and Parmod are on their way to success. RITU RAJ KONWAR

With Olympic bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale and another Paris Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar beside him, Niraj Kumar should have felt a shiver as he lined up for the men's rifle 50m 3-position final in the 38th National Games' shooting competition here on Thursday. But that was not the situation.

"I was just acting like a robot, just following my process and gave my best in every shot," the 25-year-old Niraj told *The Hindu* after surprising the Olympians to win the gold.

"There was nothing in my mind because every athlete in the final is of the same level, whoever has better control over his mind will win the title."

Niraj, from Hoshiarpur in Punjab and representing Services here as he is with the Indian Navy, was calm and collected as he led almost all through the kneeling, prone and standing events to take the gold beating Madhya Pradesh's Aishwary Pratap 464.1-462.4. Swapnil (447.7) finished with a bronze.

"My preparation was not up to the mark, I was busy with other things...that is why I was a bit worried," said Swapnil.

Meanwhile Haryana's Suruchi Phogat, who finished with an empty bag at the last Games in Goa in 2023, paired up with Parmod and won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold, brushing aside Rajasthan's Anjali Shekhawat and Umesh Choudhary 17-7 in the title clash.

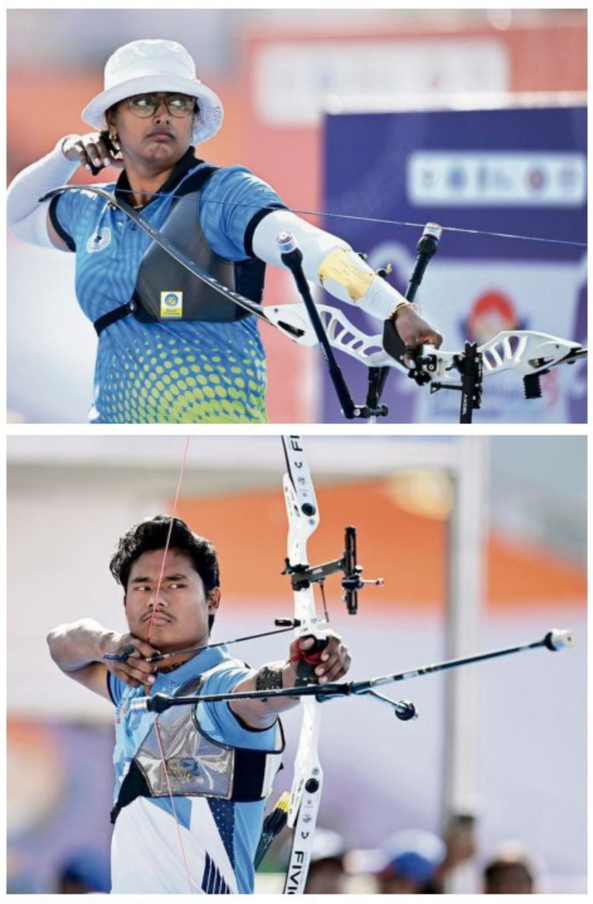
That brought the 18-year-old her second gold here and saw her emerge as the shooting star of these National Games.

"I was not in form today. I thought my first gold came easier," said Suruchi.

Maharashtra's Arvind Patil and Olympian Rahi Sarnobat crushed host Uttarakhand's Abhinav Deshwal and Yashsavi Joshi 17-3 for the bronze.

# Juyel, Deepika take recurve golds; Karnataka to meet TN for men's tennis team title

**Stan Rayan**
DEHRADUN



**Hitting the bull's eye:** Recurve archers Deepika and Juyel fired their arrows to the top prize. RITU RAJ KONWAR

West Bengal's Juyel Sarkar surprised Olympian Tarundeep Rai to win the men's individual recurve archery gold in the National Games at the Rajiv Gandhi cricket stadium here on Thursday.

Juyel defeated Services' Indra Chand Swami 6-4 in the title-decider while Olympian Tarundeep Rai took the bronze.

Meanwhile, Olympian Deepika Kumari lived up to expectations, taking the women's gold with a 6-4 victory over Bihar's talented youngster Anshika Kumari 6-4.

"This is my second National Games gold but I'm not very happy, I could not get the scores I wanted," said the 30-year-old Deepika.

**Impressed with juniors**

She was impressed with the juniors who are coming up, including the 18-year-old Anshika.

"The juniors are motivating me to perform better and the competition is getting tougher day by day," she said.

In tennis, No. 1 seed Karnataka and second-seeded Tamil Nadu will clash in the final of the men's team event while the top-seeded Maharashtra will play Gujarat in the women's final.

**The results: Recurve archery: Individual: Men: Gold:** Juyel Sarkar (WB) bt Indra Chand Swami (Ser) 6-4. **Bronze:** Tarundeep Rai (Sik). **Women: Gold:** Deepika Kumari (Jha) bt Anshika Kumari (Bih) 6-4. **Third place:** Komalika Bari (Jha). **Team: Mixed: Gold:** Maharashtra bt Haryana 4 (19)-4 (18). **Bronze:** Jharkhand. **Men: Gold:** Jharkhand bt Uttar Pradesh 4 (29)-4 (27). **Bronze:** Services. **Women: Gold:** Maharashtra bt Jharkhand 6-0. **Bronze:** Haryana. **Tennis: Team (semifinals):** **Men:** Karnataka bt Services 2-1; Tamil Nadu bt Maharashtra 2-1. **Women:** Maharashtra bt Tamil Nadu 2-0; Gujarat bt Haryana 2-0.

# Svrcina stuns second seed Harris, enters quarterfinals

CHENNAI OPEN

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**
CHENNAI

**Big surprise:** Czech Svrcina celebrates his upset win. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Dalibor Svrcina of the Czech Republic stunned second seed Lloyd Harris 6-1, 6-1 in the second round of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger at SDAT Tennis Stadium here on Thursday.

Svrcina's 12th straight win in India helped him advance to the quarterfinals.

Svrcina broke first and Harris broke back in the opening two games. Harris simply didn't seize the crucial moments. On 2-1, Svrcina double-faulted to hand Harris a break point, but the latter netted to squander the advantage.

The Czech double-faulted again on 4-1 for Harris to have another break point. This time, Harris made three unforced errors for his opponent to go up 5-1.

Trailing 1-5 and on 40-40, the South African twice committed unforced errors to concede the set. The second set didn't get any better for him.

Svrcina attributed his victory to being "physically prepared," especially since he thought they had played "in intense heat in the middle of the day." He observed that his opponent "lacked match rhythm" and became "very tired" after a few games.

The 22-year-old, who played far from the baseline, said he aimed to "keep the ball in play" as much as possible, knowing that putting "four or five balls back" would be challenging for his opponent, especially in the "terrible heat."

Top seed British Billy Harris staved off Turk Ergi Kirkin's challenge 6-3, 6-3, to secure a last-eight berth.

**The results (second round):** Billy Harris (GBr) bt Ergi Kirkin (Tur) 6-3, 6-3; Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) bt Lloyd Harris (SA) 6-1, 6-1; Kyrian Jacquet (Fra) bt Alexis Galarneau (Can) 6-2, 6-2; Shintaro Mochizuki (Jpn) bt Michael Geerts (Bel) 6-4, 6-4; Timofey Skatov (Kaz) bt Aslan Karatsev (Rus) 6-4, 7-5; Oleksandr Ovcharenko (Ukr) bt Alexey Zakharov (Rus) 0-6, 7-6, 6-4.

# Isnt She Beautiful and Touch Of Grey favoured for feature events

BENGALURU: Isnt She Beautiful, who maintains form, may score an encore in the Suresh Shanmugam Memorial Spinters' Trial Stakes (1,200m) and Touch Of Grey, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Stayers' Trial Stakes (2,400m), the chief events of the races to be held here on Friday (Feb. 7). There will be no false rails.

**1 KADAMBI FALLS PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Treasure Chest (4) Koshi K 60, 2. Baashha (3) M. Prabhakaran 58.5, 3. The Golden Dream (7) R. Pradeep 56.5, 4. Sling Shot (1) Suhas K 55.5, 5. Ice Storm (5) M. Rajesh K 52.5, 6. N R I Millennium (8) Jagadeesh 52, 7. Firefinch (2) Dhanu S 51.5 and 8. Striking Eyes (6) Likith Appu 51.5.
**1. TREASURE CHEST, 2. THE GOLDEN DREAM, 3. BAASHHA**

**2 SANS CRAINTES MILLION** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-30: 1. Ransomware (6) M. Rajesh K 56, 2. Black Diamond (2) Vinod Shinde 54.5, 3. Eternal Glory (4) Rayan 54.5, 4. Mnemosyne (5) G. Vivek 54.5, 5. Silver Quest (1) P. Mani 54.5 and 6. Zephyrine (3) Arvind K 54.5.
**1. ETERNAL GLORY, 2. MNEMOSYNE**

**3 SURESH SHANMUGAM MEMORIAL SPRINTERS' TRIAL STAKES** (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Berrettini (4) P. Sai Kumar 59, 2. Czar (6) Antony 59, 3. Star Glory (3) Suraj 59, 4. Yukan (1) Srinath 59, 5. Masato (5) Akshay K 58 and 6. Isnt She Beautiful (2) G. Vivek 57.5.
**1. ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL, 2. MASATO**

**4 DR. T. THIMMAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Divine Art (4) Siddaraju P 62.5, 2. Metzinger (6) Antony 58.5, 3. IL Volo (2) Salman Khan 58, 4. Armory (3) M. Rajesh K 57.5, 5. Chotipari (1) Jagadeesh 57.5, 6. Power Of Beauty (5) Arvind K 55.5, 7. Scarlette Lady (7) Akshay K 52.5 and Lux Aeterna (8) Shreyas S 50.
**1. SCARLETTE LADY, 2. METSINGER, 3. POWER OF BEAUTY**

**5 STAYERS' TRIAL STAKES** (2,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Touch Of Grey (4) Suraj 59, 2. Sassy (3) Akshay K 57.5, 3. Mansa Musa (1) G. Vivek 56.5 and 4. Queen Of Kings (2) M. Prabhakaran 55.
**1. TOUCH OF GREY, 2. MANSA MUSA**

**6 VIDHANA SOUDHA TROPHY** (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 4-30: 1. Grizzly (3) M. Naveen 60, 2. The King N I (5) R. Robert 60, 3. Icicle (–) (–) 59.5, 4. English Bay (1) R. Pradeep 57.5, 5. Golden Time (2) Koshi K 57 and 6. Aherne (6) Darshan 54.
**1. AHERNE, 2. GOLDEN TIME**

**7 KADAMBI FALLS PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: Honourable Lady (4) Dhanu S 62.5, 2. Invincible (5) M. Rajesh K 61.5, 3. N R I Touch (8) Tauseef 61.5, 4. Smile Of Beauty (2) Koshi K 61, 5. Sheer Bliss (9) Adarsh 60, 6. Able One (6) Ganesh S 59.5, 7. Mega Success (7) Jagadeesh 59, 8. Step To Destiny (1) A. Anamo Hangal 56.5 and 9. Glow In The Dark (3) R. Pradeep 55.
**1. INVINCIBLE, 2. SMILE OF BEAUTY, 3. MEGA SUCCESS**

Day's best: **ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL**
Double: **TREASURE CHEST – ETERNAL GLORY**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

# Harris uses van life to fuel his tennis career

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**
CHENNAI

**Pathbreaker:** Harris is the only player from Isle of Man on the ATP Tour. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Tennis player Billy Harris hails from the Isle of Man, a place that's typically known for cycling and motorcycle racing.

"We just lived near the park tennis courts. So, in the mornings and nights, we (he and his two brothers) used to bike around and play tennis most days.

"There are a couple of juniors from the Isle of Man, but I'm the only one playing professionally at the moment.

"So, yes, it's a small place and it's nice to represent the Isle of Man," he said here on Thursday.

But that's not the most interesting bit about him. After he began playing the ITF Futures, he made a white Ford Transit van his home and travelled across Europe to compete in tournaments for around three-and-a-half years.

He used whatever money he earned from the competitions to fuel his tennis career.

"It was a great experience. I had a bed in the back with my stringer machine, and cooked all my meals by the side of the tennis clubs on the road!

"If you make it to the main draw (of a tournament), that's enough (money) to get to the next tournament. When you're travelling on your own, it's sometimes a bit lonely. And when you have a bad week, you just need to keep going on to the next one," he said.

The 30-year-old, who last used his van to play in a Futures in Poland around five years ago, got to train with Novak Djokovic in this year's Australian Open.

"Learnt from how he serves well, and particularly, little things in his movement," he said of the experience.

# Stoinis' shock retirement and injuries hurt Australia's CT build-up

Cummins and Hazlewood ruled out of the tournament, joining Marsh on the sidelines; Smith or Head in the fray to take up captaincy; all-rounder will remain available for national duty in T20Is

CRICKET

**Press Trust of India**
MELBOURNE/GALLE

The pace duo of skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood joined the injured list while all-rounder Marcus Stoinis shockingly called it quits from ODIs to vacate his place as Australia's Champions Trophy squad unravelled just days before the tournament.

The eight-team Champions Trophy begins on February 19 and Australia has until February 12 to make at least four changes to the provisional squad of 15 after Cummins and Hazlewood joined all-rounder Mitchell Marsh in the injured category.

Complicating matters was Stoinis, who declared on Thursday that he would no longer play the ODI format to "fully focus on the next chapter" of his career, which might mean freelancing in T20 leagues. The 35-year-old, who has never played Tests, was picked in the provisional squad and will remain available for national duty in T20 Internationals.

Cummins has not recovered from the ankle niggle that plagued him towards the end of the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series against India, while Hazlewood is still recuperating from a calf strain.

**Bolt from the blue:** Australia will miss Stoinis' services in ODIs. FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Hazlewood's last competitive outing was against India in the drawn third Test in Brisbane.

The turmoil has hit the country's national selectors just days before the quadrennial showpiece gets underway from February 19. While India will play all their matches in Dubai owing to security concerns, Australia will be based in Pakistan, the original hosts of the event.

"Unfortunately Pat, Josh and Mitch are managing some ongoing injuries and haven't come up in time for the Champions Trophy," national selection panel chairman George Bailey said in Galle, where the team is playing the second Test against Sri Lanka.

"While disappointing, it does present a great opportunity for other players to perform for Australia in a world event," added Bailey.

In the absence of Cummins, either Steve Smith or Travis Head could lead the reigning ODI World Cup winners.

Stoinis' sudden decision to call it quits might be a result of a hamstring injury that he sustained during the ongoing SA20, where he has been playing for Durban Super Giant.

"Playing ODI cricket for Australia has been an incredible journey, and I'm grateful for every moment I've had in the green and gold. Representing my country at the highest level is something I'll always cherish," said Stoinis in a media release issued by Cricket Australia.

# LIV Golf players given direct path into the US Open

**Agence France-Presse**
NEW YORK

LIV Golf players were given a direct path into the US Open on Wednesday as the US Golf Association announced new exemption categories for this year's June 12-15 event.

The US Open becomes the first Major to provide a direct path for LIV talent into the field, with an exempt spot reserved at Oakmont for the top player not otherwise exempt among LIV's top-three in the individual standings as of May 19, the day after this year's PGA Championship.

**Seven events**

There will be seven events before the cutoff this year in the Saudi-backed series, starting with this week's event in Saudi Arabia followed by those in Adelaide, Hong Kong, Singapore, Miami, Mexico City and South Korea.

In addition to the full exemption this year, a local exemption will be awarded to the top-10 LIV players as of April 7, the Monday of Masters week.

That puts them into the 36-hole final qualifying for US Open spots.

**Through already**

LIV players who are already qualified for this year's US Open include defending champion Bryson DeChambeau and past Major winners Jon Rahm, Cam Smith, Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson and Brooks Koepka.

# BENGALURU ROUND-UP

### Rohan and Rishikesh pile on the runs

R. Rohan scored a triple century (339 n.o.) and Rishikesh a double century (206 n.o.) as BUCC (2) recorded a scarcely believable 750-run win over YMCA CC (1) in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division tournament. In response to BUCC (2)'s 785 for three, YMCA (1) made just 35, but it played with only seven players.

**The scores:** St. Joseph's College 134 in 29.4 overs (S. Aravind 61, B.R. Saurav Varma 5/38, Chandan Lal 3/21) lost to Young Boys CA 137/4 in 23.4 overs (L.S. Suresh 48, J. Praveen Balraj 28, Rakshit Kulkarni 43 n.o., Marshal Ronaldo 3/33).

BUCC (2) 785/3 in 50 overs (R. Rohan 339 n.o., T. Sathish 113, Adhrit Rao 40, Rishikesh 206 n.o.) bt YMCA (1) 35 in 9.1 overs (V. Aatish Balaji 4/8).

Blaze CC, Hosakote 266 in 48.5 overs (R. Jagadish 44, R. Naveen Kumar 48, L. Rakesh 26, Honne Mulkatte Narayana Gowda 44) bt Youth 225 in 46.1 overs (Abhimanyu Tantry 81, N. Parshudharaj 32, Honne Mulkatte Narayana Gowda 3/44, R. Jagadish 3/12).

Bowlers 64 in 20.2 overs (Charan S. Reddy 4/24) lost to Southern Cricketers 65/9 in 21.1 overs (Zainul Abideen 3/21, Gouspeer 3/19).

Garfield Cricketers 100 in 26.4 overs (P. Ved 3/18, K.M. Sharath 4/18) lost to National Cricketers 101/1 in 10.5 overs (Ashun Kumar A. Shetty 60, P. Ved 36 n.o.).

City Cricketers (2) 312/8 in 50 overs (G. Sagar 55, Brahmanya Theertha R. Kuber 112 n.o., Vinod Kumar 44, Suhaan Bhandary 3/54) bt Kengeri Cricketers 153/7 in 50 overs (N. Pruthvi Raj Gowda 26, Aishik Banerjee 36, Suhaan Bhandary 35 n.o.).

Canarese 244 in 49.5 overs (Rudra Singh 43, Krushik Krishna 46, Karthik 30, K.P. Harsha 4/40, Sriniket L.M. Saragur 5/44) lost to Super 246/6 in 48.3 overs (S. Rishabh Kumar 32, Raj Kumar 30, K.P. Harsha 58 n.o., Anagh Skanda Bhardwaj 60).

Unique 141/7 in 34.3 overs (M.S. Chetan 43, M. Mukul Gupta 38) lost to Mathikere 142/4 in 21.1 overs (Deepak Chauhan 31, M. Vidyasagar 34, Ram N. Chauhan 39).

Young Cricketers (2) 120 in 26.1 overs (B. Nani 32, Athiqulla Khan 40, A.C. Avinash Gowda 5/29, T.G. Uday 4/21) bt Gary Cricketers 95 in 25.1 overs (R. Lokesh 27, Ravi Thakur 4/15).

### Agniputhra downs MEG & Centre

FC Agniputhra thrashed MEG & Centre 5-1 in the BDFA UrbanRise Super Division football league here on Thursday.

**The results:**

Rebels FC 4 (R.S Jlcis 13, T. Kapkhankhual 22, Jack Liankamawi Neihsial 45+2, Ariek Thapa 65) bt Bangalore Independents FC 0.

FC Agniputhra 5 (Ahmed Faiz Khan 13, Bhupender Singh 22, K. Naveen 57-og, Krishna 71, Azfar Noorani 90+1) bt MEG & Centre FC 1 (Abhinand 17).

# Para sport, swimming and track cycling to offer highest medals

CWG 2026

**Press Trust of India**
GLASGOW

More than 200 gold medals will be up for grabs across 10 days of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, the 23rd edition, with para sport, track cycling and swimming boasting the highest medals.

The competition will be held from July 23 to August 2 and will feature a "10-sport programme concentrated across four venues within an eight-mile corridor of the City". While mixed 4x400m relay has been added to the schedule, Commonwealth Mile will make a comeback for the first time since 1966.

**'Quintessential'**

World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said in a release: "The mile is the quintessential Commonwealth athletics event whose return to the Games in Glasgow 2026 I very much welcome. From 1930 through to 1966, the mile was the blue riband event of each Games and the magic of the mile continues to resonate with sports fans."

The para sport programme will consist of six of the 10 sports and will have a record 47-medal events.

The 10 sports on schedule of the CWG 2026 are artistic gymnastics, athletics and para athletics, 3x3 basketball and 3x3 wheelchair basketball, boxing, swimming and para swimming, bowls and para bowls (indoor), judo, netball, track and para track cycling, and weightlifting and para powerlifting.

The swimming competition in both para and non-para categories will have 56 medal events.

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara.

Tender Notification No. : 09/2024-25 Date : 05-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short Term Tenders are invited from qualified contractors for the works through E-procurement Portal as per the Standard Bid Documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through KPP Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

1) Documents may be Downloaded from : 06-02-2025, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 20-02-2025 upto 16.00 hours, 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 21-02-2025 at 16.30 hours. (If possible) Tender Processing Fees and EMD as per KPP Portal.

No. of Work 05, (Estimate Cost Rs. 99.00 Lakhs).

For more information contact the above Office during Office Hours.

Note : Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Ramanagara Division,
Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/568/Manipal/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division,
BBMP Complex, 2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosur Road,
Adugodi, Bengaluru-560030. Email : bbmpeebtm@gmail.com

No. E.E.(BTM)/Kppp/12/2024-25 Date : 05-02-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (SERVICE TENDER)
(Through GOK KPPP portal only)

The Executive Engineer BTM Layout Division BBMP, Bengaluru invites Bids on behalf of The Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for the following services from reputed Services Provider for the below work.

| Sl. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Providing Security Services to all BBMP office buildings in BTM Layout Constituency. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 90.00 Lakhs. **EMD Amount :** Rs. 1,80,000/- **Category :** Others only |
| 2 | Providing House Keeping Services to all BBMP Office Buildings in BTM Layout Constituency. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 30.00 Lakhs. **EMD Amount :** Rs. 60,000/- **Category :** Others only |

**Calendar of Events : (1)** Last Date and Time for uploading tenders in KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **27-02-2025 Upto 16:00 Hrs. (2)** Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid in the KPP Portal on **28-02-2025 at 16:30 Hrs. (3)** Date and Time of Opening Financial Bid in the KPP Portal on **01-03-2025 at 16.30 Hrs.** or after Technical Bid Approval.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ-25/ಜೆಇ/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 03.02.2025

ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ-25/ಜೆಇ/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.02.2025.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಹರಿಹರ, ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ, ಮತ್ತು ಜಗಳೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ-2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ **ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ :5054-03-337-0-17-154 ಯೋಜನೆ (ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ) ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054-03-337-0-17-160 ಯೋಜನೆ(ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ನವೀಕರಣ) ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ 100.00ಲಕ್ಷ, ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054-04-337-0-01-154 ಯೋಜನೆ(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳು ಸುಧಾರಣೆ) ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 5 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 85.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ :5054-03-101-0-2-132 (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು 4059-80-051-0-29-386 – 4059- ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ 75.00 ಲಕ್ಷ,** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.02.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 13.02.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/718/ಕೆವಿಎಂಸಿಎ/2024-25

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2024-25/5227 DATE: 05/02/2025

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 4059-PW building and 1 work under head of account 8443-Deposit contribution, Totally 2 No. of works, amount put to tender is Rs. 80.00 Lakhs and Rs. 160.00 Lakhs respectively.

**Calendar of events for the work at Sl No. 1 :** 1)Last date for queries & clarifications:19-02-2025 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids:21-02-2025 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 24-02-2025 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

**Calendar of events for the work at Sl No. 2:**1)Pre-bid meeting date: 19-02-2025 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 21-02-2025 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 24-02-2025 up to 5.00 PM,4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 27-02-2025 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System):"after approval of Technical bids",6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1607/KSMCA/2024-25

THE HINDU GROUP

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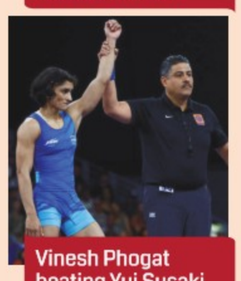
Suryakumar Yadav's catch in the T20 World Cup final

India's historic victory over Australia in Hockey at Paris 2024

Gukesh winning the Candidates


Vinesh Phogat beating Yui Susaki at Paris 2024

Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar's bronze win in Paralympics

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# Shreyas, Arshdeep, Chahal were 'non-negotiables' for Punjab Kings: Ponting

The head coach says he wanted to bring in a captain with whom he had worked in the past; the Aussie adds he needs to build a well-balanced squad; emphasises focus is on Indian talent

**Got 'em:** Chahal, Shreyas and Arshdeep will be key picks for Punjab Kings. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

IPL

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Australian great Ricky Ponting has revealed that Shreyas Iyer, Arshdeep Singh, and Yuzvendra Chahal were "non-negotiables" for him at the IPL 2025 mega auction as the new head coach looks to rebuild Punjab Kings in pursuit of a maiden title.

Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL-winning skipper Shreyas became the second-most expensive player after PBKS secured him for a staggering ₹26.75 crore, while leg-spinner Chahal was bought for ₹18 crore, making him the most expensive spinner of the tournament.

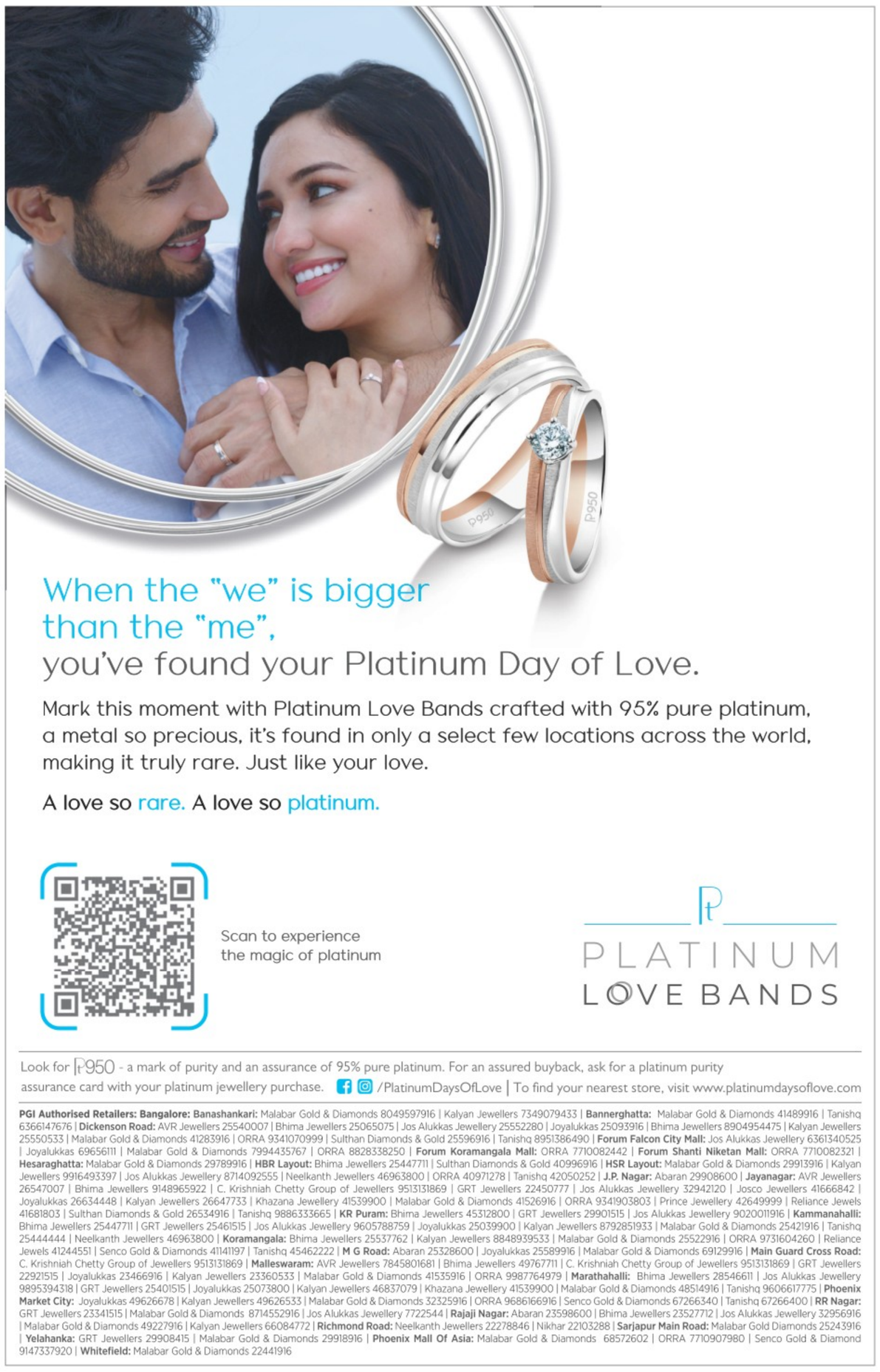
Left-arm pacer Arshdeep, who recently became India's leading T20I wicket-taker surpassing Chahal, was at the centre of a dramatic bidding war before PBKS used their RTM card to retain him at ₹18 crore – the most expensive Indian pacer in IPL auction history.

"There were three players that I wanted to bring in. One who has been at Punjab Kings for three or four years – Arshdeep Singh," Ponting explained his strategic approach at 'The Howie Games' podcast. "I also wanted to bring in a captain who I have worked with before and who has had a lot of success. So, we went after Shreyas. I also wanted to bring in Yuzi. So the Indian guys that we have are perfect," he said.

He further said that while some adjustments were necessary during the auction, his primary focus remained on building a well-balanced squad.

"And then, we had to make a few tweaks as the auction went on to make sure we ended up with a really good squad. I am trying to make things different and rebuild and have the right people around me. But these three were non-negotiables," he said.

The franchise has also shown faith in its young Indian contingent, retaining uncapped players Prabhsimran Singh and Shashank Singh as part of their long-term vision.

Ponting emphasised that while overseas players often attract more attention and bigger bids, his focus was always on ensuring a solid foundation of Indian talent.

"It's not so much about the overseas guys... but as far as I am concerned, I needed to bring the right Indian players back into the tent," Ponting said.